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MCA-Deng

MCA LEADERS SIGN CONDOLENCE BOOK FOR DENG

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 21 (Bernama) -- MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and several other party leaders today signed the condolence book for China's paramount leader, Deng Xiaoping, who died on Wednesday, at the Chinese embassy in Jalan Ampang, here.

Those present were the party's deputy president, Datuk Lim Ah Lek, secretary-general Datuk Ting Chew Peh, vice-president Datuk Chua Jui Meng, Youth chief Datuk Chan Kong Choy, Wanita leader Datuk Teng Gaik Kwan and Datuk Tan Chai Ho.

Led by Dr Ling, they performed the traditional bow in front of Deng's portrait with words of eternal remembrance of comrade Deng written in Mandarin.

Speaking to reporters later, Dr Ling, who is Transport Minister, Deng would be best remembered for the modernisation of China.

He credited Deng with the political stability in China which had led to strong economic growth in the last decade.

He hoped there would be a smooth transition of leadership as China could provide the inspiration and growth for the whole region and the world at large.

The MCA is the third largest Chinese-based ruling political party after the Communist Party of China and the Nationalist Party of Taiwan.

However, unlike them, the MCA was formed by western-educated capitalists who aimed to bring more political rights to the straits-born Chinese.

Later, DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang led a 12-member delegation to pay their last respects.

Dewan Negara President Tan Sri Mohamed Ya'acob also signed the condolence book which will be open from 9am to 5pm daily until Tuesday, except on Sunday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to sign the condolence book on Tuesday. -- BERNAMA

YBK JK