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Ling-Social

MCA PREPARED TO WORK TOGETHER TO TACKLE SOCIAL ILLS

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 7 (Bernama) -- MCA is willing to work together and share experience with Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties in resolving social problems involving youths.

Its president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said BN component parties could pool their resources and machinery for the purpose.

He said MCA had been tackling the problem for the past two years through the setting up of its Religious Bureau.

"We set up the bureau on the belief that economic development would be meaningless without spiritual development," he told reporters during an MCA Open House at Wisma MCA, here today.

Dr Ling said the party had established closer ties with representatives from various religions in helping to resolve social problems.

"The programme proved successful. There is greater awareness among those involved in their respective religions," he said.

He was commenting on Umno's move to embark on a large-scale programme to eradicate social ills among Malay youths.

Last Wednesday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had a meeting with more than 300 representative of religious units in various government agencies to discuss the problem.

In a related development, Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng said counselling at schools and attention given by parents at home were necessary in resolving indisciplinary among students especially those who smoke.

"A study carried out by Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in Kelantan found out that students who smoked had disciplinary problem compared to other students. Parents should view smoking as something serious," he said.

Two days ago, Chua said those below 18 were prohibited from having, chewing or smoking tobacco under the amendments to Control of Tobacco Product Regulations 1993. -- BERNAMA

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