

# PM's interview *5-12-11-98* 'clears the air'

KUALA LUMPUR: MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik has described Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's interview with CNN on Tuesday as "a good start to enable the truth to be told to the whole world."

"The foreign media has been behaving very badly and preaching press freedom without exercising its responsibility."

"It is good that Lorraine Hahn (from CNN) came down personally to interview the Prime Minister rather than putting out just what a certain writer has to say as the gospel truth," Dr Ling told re-

porters when asked to comment on the interview.

Dr Ling said the Prime Minister performed "very well" in the 30-minute interview and he stated his case "very truthfully and clearly."

"I hope the whole world got the chance to watch it," he said.

Asked to comment on whether Dr Mahathir should appoint a deputy prime minister, Dr Ling said:

"A lot of countries have presidents but no vice-presidents, such as Chile and Venezuela. So, I do not think it is a big deal

that we do not have a deputy prime minister."

Dr Ling said the MCA would accept any appointment made by the Prime Minister to fill the deputy prime minister's post as it was an "Umno affair."

"I think this is purely an Umno affair and the prerogative of the Prime Minister. But whoever sits at the top is not there to lead only one faction of the community."

"He is there to lead the whole country and this has been seen time and time again with all other prime ministers," Dr Ling said.