

Rally behind PM, says Ling

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Support Govt in these critical times, Malaysians urged

KUALA LUMPUR: MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik has called on all Malaysians to support the Government's efforts to counter problems caused by the economic crisis.

Dr Ling, who is also Transport Minister, said people should stay united behind the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in these critical times and ensure that the nation's political stability and peace were protected.

"The current economic crisis is serious and presents a great challenge to the Government and the people who have enjoyed 41 years of independence," Dr Ling said in his National Day statement.

Dr Ling said Malaysia had experienced a recession in the 1980s, managed to overcome it and eventually emerged as a country with a strong economic growth.

"The 8% economic growth which the country had enjoyed

annually for the past 10 years is an achievement that we should be proud of," he said.

Dr Ling said for the past one year, the Government had taken positive and coherent steps to counter effects of the economic slowdown.

"Malaysians should co-operate with the Government so that the efforts will be carried out successfully," he said.

Dr Ling said the people could help improve the country's economic health by buying Malay-

sian-made goods; having local holidays or studying in local universities.

They should also use local banks and ports, he added.

Dr Ling said Malaysians could overcome the crisis if they unite under the Malaysia *Boleh* spirit.

National Unity Advisory Panel member Datuk Lee Lam Thye said Malaysians of all races should enhance their loyalty to the country and contribute towards the economic re-

covery.

"This year's National Day theme Our Nation, Our *Responsibility* is apt as we should rally behind the country's efforts to cope with the present economic downturn," he said.

Abim urged Malaysians to overcome threats from unseen enemies.

Its uresident Ahmad Azam Abdulkahman said Malaysians should be united and use their resources and knowledge to improve the people's dignity.