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Ling-MCA

BN COMPONENT PARTIES PLEDGE FULL SUPPORT FOR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, June 16 (Bernama) -- All leaders of the Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties have pledged their undivided support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in overcoming the country's economic situation.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said the unanimous decision was reached at the BN Supreme Council meeting last Sunday.

"We decided unanimously that we will stand 100 per cent behind our Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his team...of course, the main people in the economic team which will be Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Tun Daim Zainuddin and cabinet colleagues," he told reporters after opening the National Conference on Ocean Governance in conjunction with the Year of the Ocean 1998 at the Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA) here today.

Ling, who is also Transport Minister, was asked on whether the MCA had pledged its full support for the leadership of Dr Mahathir.

He said the meeting had, among others, discussed the economic situation and adverse foreign media reports against Malaysia and Dr Mahathir.

"We reached unanimity on certain things. To face this kind of crisis (economic) and the foreign media which is trying to run down Malaysia, our PM and undermine our stability, we decided unanimously that we must not react the way they want...we must remain stable, united and cohesive.

"When we can do this, we will be telling the foreign media that we practise democracy and we elect our own leaders and we are not going to allow Time magazine or Newsweek to tell who should be our leaders.

"We are telling that we are strongly behind Dr Mahathir. We are sending a very clear signal to all foreign media (to) mind your own business...we know what we are doing.... It is our responsibility and our right to elect our own leaders," he said.

Ling said the component parties are confident of Dr Mahathir's capability to revive Malaysia's economy as he had done before.

-- BERNAMA

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