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Ling warns: Don't be complacent

Chong Chee Seong

MUAR, Sat. - MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik has warned Malaysians against complacency just because the worst of the country's economic problems appears to be over.

He said the economic situation had improved tremendously in recent weeks following various measures put into place by the Government.

"Nevertheless, Malaysians must not be complacent but must continue to exercise prudence and spend wisely to achieve full recovery," he said.

Dr Ling was speaking to reporters after chairing an MCA Central Committee meeting today.

MCA deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek, vice-presidents Datuk Chua Jui Meng, Datuk Ong Ka Ting and Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn, and secretary-general Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh were among those present.

Dr Ling, who is also the Transport Minister, said the MCA would continue to hold seminars and dialogues with the Chinese community on economic issues.

"MCA Wanita is organising campaigns to get Malaysians from all walks of life to stand solidly behind Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, his deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and other leaders in tackling the economic problems.

"With fast counter-measures implemented by the Government, we are making headway towards the end of the problems," he said.

Dr Ling said the aims of the campaigns were to instil patriotism among Malaysians to love Malaysia, to buy more Malaysian goods, to visit local destinations, study in local universities and other centres of higher education, save in local banks and promote local food production, among others.

He said the response to the campaigns was encouraging, adding that this was a positive move to enable Malaysians to understand the country's problems.

Dr Ling said the MCA Central Committee also touched on the student enrolment in the Tunku Abdul Rahman College, which increased by 22 per cent this year to 7,010 students.

He said this was a big leap forward towards providing quality and yet cheaper tertiary education to Malaysian children, adding that this was another measure to reduce the outflow of foreign exchange.

Dr Ling said the committee also resolved to hold simple flag-hoisting ceremonies nationwide in conjunction with the party's 50th anniversary on Feb 27 next year.

He also said the MCA would launch a Malaysian Chinese heritage campaign aimed at collecting artefacts, historical documents and records of contributions and other historic events towards nation-building.

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