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Ling warns of external interference

KARAK, Sun. - Malaysians must be resilient and self-reliant in the face of possible interference by external forces seeking to influence the country's internal system, said Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik today.

"There is a possibility of this from some countries for reasons best known to themselves.

"These are countries which champion human rights and yet act contrarily," he said, commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday on the possibility of economic sanctions being imposed against Malaysia due to adverse foreign media reports on the country's political situation.

Dr Ling was speaking after officiating at the handover ceremony of keys for nine shoplots in Karak to the Tunku Abdul Rahman College for use as its temporary campus.

"While the world comes to its senses and tries to regulate forces which have run wild and created havoc around the world, we have to look inward and see how we can be independent."

He dismissed speculations that a special parliamentary meeting scheduled on Tuesday was a pre-emptive move for early general election.

"The general election is very far away from our minds." He said the meeting would facilitate the necessary changes to be made to the Companies Act and Singapore's Central Limit Order Book (CLOB) dealings and the passing of new Bills, among others.

Citing the involvement of the Finance Ministry and the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry at the meeting, Dr Ling said,

"This is so that we can take charge of our own economy and not be exposed to the whims and fancies of currency traders and other external agents who may want to block whatever we are doing to make our economy recover."

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