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Ling-DPM

MCA WELCOMES WHOEVER IS PICKED DPM, SAYS LING

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 11 (Bernama) -- MCA President Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik today said the party welcomes whoever is chosen as the new deputy prime minister, stressing that the DPM's appointment is a prerogative of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"The prime minister is a wise person and he knows what to do and who to pick and MCA need not advise the prime minister on the appointment of his deputy," he told reporters at his office here.

He was asked whether Dr Mahathir should appoint a new deputy to replace Datuk Seri Anwar who was dismissed last Sept 2.

Ling, who is Transport Minister, said he also regarded the appointment of the deputy prime minister an Umno affair.

Asked how would a leader be picked should anything happen to Dr Mahathir, he said Umno would have ways to deal with such a situation.

"I think there are ways in which this can be done like having a very quick emergency meeting and this depends on Umno," he said.

Asked whether the appointment of a new deputy prime minister was discussed during today's or past Cabinet meetings, Dr Ling said: "No, as this is purely Umno's affair."

"Whoever is picked and sit at the top he is not there to lead one fraction of the country, he is there to lead the whole country. This is the truth that has emerged time and time again," Ling added.

-- BERNAMA

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