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Ling: Dr M would not risk his reputation without solid proof

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said it would be most unlikely for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to put his reputation on the line if he did not have solid proof against his former deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"Dr Mahathir is an experienced and honest leader and his leadership has been tested for more than a decade and he will never put his reputation on the line."

The Minister of Transport said this when asked to comment on the Prime Minister's lengthy explanation to the Press yesterday on events leading to Anwar's detention under the Internal Security Act.

On the confession and guilty plea made by Anwar's adopted brother Sukma Darmawan and his friend, Dr Munawar Anees, Dr Ling said: "Nobody will admit (to) such wrongdoing if he did not commit or abet such an act."

He also dismissed suggestions that a person like Munawar, who enjoyed such high stature in society, could be tricked into making such an admission.

"It is better to let the matter be referred to the court and let the witnesses testify under oath," he said.

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