

Think again, Ling 44 urges rioters

30 SEP 1999

KUALA LUMPUR: MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik yesterday urged rioters to reconsider their unlawful ways, as it could adversely affect Malaysia's reputation and economy.

"When kids come out and throw stones and hurt the police, the foreign press takes advantage of it. And this has a tremendous effect on tourists arrivals and investors who may reconsider investing in the country," Dr Ling told reporters yesterday.

He said if investment fell, jobs would be lost, which in turn would affect the Malaysian economy.

(On Tuesday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said in New York that Malaysians had become "fed up" with demonstrations which disrupted businesses.)

Dr Ling also hoped that hospital authorities would come out with the test results on Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's alleged arsenic poisoning, to enable speculation to cease.

"The foreign media seems to be condemning Malaysia as if the arsenic report is true. So I hope the issue can be cleared up as soon as possible as the damage caused by the allegations is alarming," he added.

Asked to comment that some sections of the public might not believe the results if they showed that Anwar had not been poisoned, Dr Ling said:

"Let's see the results first. I think there are enough laboratories in the country, and it cannot be that all of them will be rigging the results."

On the 17-point appeal made by the *Hua Tuan* (Malaysian Chinese organisations) recently, Dr Ling said the Cabinet agreed that some association members could participate in the National Economic Consultative Council (NECC) II.
