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MCA-Ling

A UNITED MALAYSIA MAKES RECOVERY POSSIBLE, SAYS LING

KUALA LUMPUR, July 17 (Bernama) -- The country has surmounted the 1997 economic crisis because Malaysians stay united and disciplined in facing the problem, said MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik.

What gave Malaysia the edge over some other countries similarly-hit by the economic crisis was her political and social stability which remain intact despite the onslaught of attendant woes, he said.

"Various quarters, including outsiders, bent on running down the economy with negative comments have changed their perceptions and are now offering positive forecast of the prospects of the country's economy," he said.

He said this in his presidential address at the 46th MCA general assembly opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Wisma MCA here.

Ling paid tribute to all concerned for their spirit of cooperation and contribution which effectively helped Malaysia overcome the economic crisis.

"There is no denying that Dr Mahathir's leadership and foresight are key factors that rescued the economy from the onslaught and clutches of greedy and ill-willed outsiders," he said.

Ling, who is Transport Minister, pledged MCA's full support for the government and Dr Mahathir's leadership in safeguarding the economy and in demanding for a restructuring of the international financial order.

"We're not exaggerating when we say that the prime minister is the saviour of the country's economy. His efforts and achievements in this respect deserve high praise and appreciation from all Malaysians," he said.

Ling said public response to the MCA Youth-initiated "Love Malaysia" and "Buy Malaysian" campaign was overwhelming and had met the objective of rejuvenating patriotism and promoting Malaysia-made products.

He also emphasised the need for a united and stable MCA in facing the coming general election and to contribute to a repeat of BN's landslide victory.

"I'm hopeful that the culture of putting party unity and stability first would perpetuate for the sake of the country, its people and the MCA itself. I'm confident that MCA members would continue to work as a team to serve the people and country sincerely and trustfully," he said.

He said education has always been high on the MCA agenda and a key element in the party's cause since its inception.

As a testimony of this, the MCA would build two more campuses for the Tunku Abdul Rahman College, one in Kampar and the other in Karak to accommodate more tertiary students and contribute to national educational development, he said.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and leaders of other Barisan Nasional component parties also attended the assembly opening.

-- BERNAMA

APG RYN