

03/11/1999

Chinese chambers back PM

PUTRAJAYA, Tues. - Chinese businessmen and organisations today expressed support for the Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The pledge was made to Dr Mahathir by a 30-member delegation from the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia and the Federation of Chinese Associations of Malaysia at a meeting at his office.

The ACCCIM and FCAM, in a statement after the meeting, said at this stage, it was important for both organisations to state their support for Dr Mahathir and the Government under his leadership.

This expression of support was necessary, they said, since Malaysia was facing various external pressures towards the end of the 20th century.

Both organisations also expressed their full support for the various measures taken by the Government in meeting the challenges facing the economy, the country and national leadership.

They also pledged their support and co-operation for the realisation of the country's Vision 2020 objectives.

ACCCIM was led by its president Datuk Lim Guan Teik while the FCAM delegation was led by its president Datuk Chong Chin Shoong.

Also present were chairmen of both ACCCIM and FCAM at state level.

ACCCIM has 17 constituent chambers of commerce, located in 13 States. It represents more than 20,000 Malaysian Chinese companies, individuals, trade associations and the Chinese business community in general. About 80 per cent of its members are in SMIs.

FCAM is the umbrella body for 13 Chinese Assembly Halls which boast an affiliation of some 5,000 Chinese associations with about 100,000 members.

In the statement, both organisations said they had helped contribute to prosperity, stability and national development.

As representatives of the Malaysian Chinese community, they said many of their leaders had also played a role in national politics, before and after independence.

Speaking to reporters later on behalf of both organisations, ACCCIM assistant secretary-general David Chua said during the meeting, Dr Mahathir expressed the hope that the Chinese community would support the Government to ensure peace and stability in the country.

Asked whether the two organisations had submitted any requests to the Government similar to the 17-point Hua Tuan election petition, Chua said they had not.

"No ... there were no appeals made. Now is not the time. Apart from declaring our support for the Government, we exchanged views with the Prime Minister.

"The Prime Minister briefed us on the current economic situation, the capital controls and efforts to revive the economy.

"We believe the economy is on the right track and moving towards better economic growth."

Chua said they also believed the projection of five per cent economic growth for next year was achievable.

He said in fact the 4.3 per cent economic growth for this year was much better than expected.

He said with the economy on the mend, they were confident that the Chinese community would support the Barisan Nasional in the upcoming general election.

"The economic performance is one factor. The Chinese community sees the overall picture and we are sure of the support for the present Government," he added.

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