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Ling-Chinese

CHINESE COMMUNITY NEVER QUESTIONED DR MAHATHIR'S LEADERSHIP- DR LING

RAWANG, Feb 17 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Chinese community is not easily influenced by the propaganda of certain groups which have questioned Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's leadership as Prime Minister.

MCA President Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today on the other hand the Chinese community wanted Dr Mahathir to continue leading the country as long as his health and thinking faculty permitted.

"I am confident that the Chinese community has not been influenced and the community supports the leadership of Dr Mahathir and the Barisan Nasional," he told reporters at the Selayang MCA Division open house here.

Dr Ling said this when asked if the Chinese community was also influenced by the propaganda of certain groups which discredited the government and questioned the present leadership of Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir had said yesterday that he was undertaking a nationwide trip beginning with Sabah tomorrow to clear confusion among the people arising from the actions of certain groups which had made use of the economic slowdown to denounce the government and the leaders with the intention of destabilising the country.

Among the dignitaries present were National Unity and Social Development Minister Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail and MCA leaders.

On the call by some Malaysian students in London for Dr Mahathir to step down, Dr Ling said they represented a minority voice and did not merit attention.

"If in the past Gagasan group aspired to have Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat as Prime Minister, the Chinese community now wants Dr Mahathir to continue leading the country," he said.

Dr Ling said the participation of the various communities in the Chinese New Year celebrations would strengthen ties among all Malaysians.

"If in other countries the economic problems have led to racial riots, in Malaysia the various races are united and this augurs well for full economic recovery in the year of the Rabbit," he added.

-- BERNAMA

MT ARA AAM