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Ling-MCA

CHINESE COMMUNITY INDEBTED TO BARISAN NASIONAL GOVT- DR LING

SEGAMAT, Nov 12 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Chinese community is indebted to the Barisan Nasional Government for its wisdom and effective action in the face of the recent economic downturn, MCA President Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today.

"The Chinese community knew the actual situation that prevailed during the economic downturn and the people were at a loss as to the next course of action and what more with the riots in our neighbouring country," he said.

"We faced the biggest challenge since independence. However the people remained calm and cooperated...the people stood by the government in facing this situation," he told reporters after attending the convocation of the Johor branch campus of the Tunku Abdul Rahman College here.

The people were fortunate as they had a strong government with a wise and far sighted leadership with the courage to take bold measures to revive the economy, he said.

Dr Ling said he was convinced that the people would continue to give their full support to the Barisan Nasional under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in this general election.

He said the list of MCA candidates would be ready in a day or two.

However in Johor there would not be many changes as the existing team had really worked hard and was good enough.

"There will be a change in (Bandar) Maharani where the incumbent has decided not to seek re-election as he wants to focus on his legal profession and his family," Dr Ling said.

He said local politician Richard Lau would be fielded in Bandar Maharani.

In the General Election of 1995, Tay Khim Seng of the MCA beat the DAP's Lim Sey Wee in a straight fight with a majority of 2,696 votes. Tay polled 11,234 votes against the 8,538 for Lim.

On the DAP's proposal to bring in an outside politician as its candidate for Maharani, Dr Ling said this showed that the party did not have enough members so much so it had to bring an outsider and a stranger and one who had never served the people there.

Dr Ling said the BN's chances of retaining the seat were good as the MCA had provided effective service to the local communities.

The MCA President said he was offering to defend the Labis constituency and he hoped the voters there would give him the opportunity to serve them for another five years.

-- BERNAMA

MKO AAM