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DR MAHATHIR AN EXTRAORDINARY LEADER, SAYS DR LING

PULAU PINANG, Oct 31 (Bernama) -- The people should be thankful for having Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as their leader because he is extraordinary, wise, hardworking and farsighted, MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today.

"We are lucky that the Prime Minister is still healthy to lead the country," he said when opening the 23rd general meeting of the Malaysian United Youth Movement here.

Dr Ling, who is Transport Minister, said Dr Mahathir had shown his special leadership qualities by taking bold measures to pull the country out of its economic and political problems.

Dr Ling believed that the people were mature enough to elect leaders based on their track record in developing the country and maintaining harmony.

Speaking to reporters later, Dr Ling said the manifesto of the so-called Alternative Front was a mess because it lacked cohesion.

It would be difficult for the people to accept the manifesto because it was clear that the four parties in the opposition pact -- PAS, DAP, Parti Keadilan Nasional dan Parti Rakyat Malaysia -- were fighting among themselves, he said.

The opposition manifesto which was launched recently made no mention of the creation of an Islamic state, an issue championed by PAS but opposed by the DAP.

-- BERNAMA

SA MAI YBY