

18/02/1999

Ling: We still need PM's leadership

RAWANG, Wed. - 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 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 whether the Chinese community was influenced by the propaganda of certain groups which discredited the Government and questioned the present leadership of Dr Mahathir.

He said it was right that a visionary and charismatic leader like Dr Mahathir should receive full endorsement from the people.

"For instance, in countries where there are such quality leaders, the people would rally behind them and often demand that they continue to lead.

"The party feels that we have found such a leader ... so it our duty to continue to back him," he said.

Dr Ling, who is also Transport Minister, was also asked on the use of cameras by the police to nab illegal racers.

Giving his endorsement, he said the police had taken the right step as illegal racers had been warned many times before.

"They are not only endangering their lives but those of other road users. We have even enhanced the penalty (against illegal road racers) but this has not put a stop to illegal racing."

On the emergency landing of a Malaysia Airlines Boeing 737 at the Kuching Airport last Saturday, Dr Ling said he had received a preliminary report on it.

On whether it was true that the incident could have been caused by the airport operating without its instrument landing system, which had been sent for servicing, the minister said he could not say anything until he received a full report.

On the shipping industry, Dr Ling said Hanjin Shipping Line president Soo Ho Chor would visit Port Klang on Monday to look at its efficiency, productivity and load capability.

He said Hanjian Shipping, which is one of South Korean major shipping lines, was one of Port Klang's major users.

"Their container volumes have been increasing and there is a possibility that this will increase further following Soo's visit. The more the main lines come in, the more Port Klang will be connected to the rest of the world."

(END)