

17/02/1999

Ling: Submit report on emergency landing

Kamarul Yunus

TRANSPORT Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik wants the relevant authorities to submit a report to his ministry on the incident where a Malaysia Airlines' Boeing 737 aircraft was damaged after making an emergency landing in Kuching last Saturday.

"I am waiting for the report," he told reporters after welcoming Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali to the MCA's Chinese New Year gathering in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Dr Ling was asked to comment on a news report yesterday that a Malaysian Airlines' aircraft, with passengers on board, was severely damaged while trying to make an emergency landing at the Kuching International Airport. The incident, which occurred at 11am, was believed to have resulted from a malfunctioning of the instrument landing system at the airport. No casualties were reported.

Noting that he was not aware or informed of the incident, Dr Ling said he will only comment on the matter after reading the report.

"Once I get the report, I will let you know. I don't want to speculate until I get the report from the officials in charge," he said.

Commenting on the Year of the Rabbit, Dr Ling said he believed that 1999 will bring prosperity to the country.

"As what the Feng Sui master predicts, I believe there will be positive changes this year. My hope is for the country's economy to recover as soon as possible and I urge all Malaysians to unite towards achieving this," he said.

He added that MCA will continue to support the Government and Dr Mahathir's Prime Minister.

"I always say that whenever you find a good, wise, caring and benevolent leader, you must give him full support so that he can continue to lead the nation and to a certain extent, the region.

"I think Dr Mahathir is one such leader ... a good leader, far-sighted, caring, wise and benevolent. We should allow him to lead the country as long as his health allows him," he said.

Dr Ling also said he was confident that under Dr Mahathir's leadership, Malaysia would be able to resolve any problem and face the challenges ahead.

On whether MCA will emulate Umno's move not to hold its general election this year, Dr Ling, who is also MCA president, said there was no provision under the party's constitution that allows it to defer its election. MCA will hold its general election on July 17. Prior to the general election, the party will hold its branch elections in April, followed by division elections in May, and state election for its Wanita and Youth movements in June.

(END)