

10 NOV 1999

Election-MCA (Candidates)

10 PER CENT OF MCA CANDIDATES WILL BE NEW FACES

KUALA LUMPUR, 10 Nov (Bernama) -- Ten per cent of the MCA candidates to be fielded in the 10th general election will be new faces, party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today.

They would replace those who had decided not to seek re-election to the Dewan Rakyat or state assemblies or dropped because of poor performance, he said.

Speaking at a news conference, Dr Ling said the MCA would contest in the 30 seats which it was allotted in the last general election.

He said the list of MCA candidates would be forwarded to Barisan Nasional Chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in a few days from now.

The Dewan Rakyat and state assemblies will be dissolved tomorrow to pave the way for the 10th General Election.

He said however the MCA candidates might not contest in the same seats as there would be switches among BN component parties and this would be decided by Dr Mahathir.

He was confident that the BN with its good track record and excellent service to the people would be re-elected.

Dr Ling hoped the people would return the BN with a big majority so that a strong government would be in place to overcome the various problems and challenges facing the country.

The BN Government had proved its capability by resolving the economic problems that the country had been facing since 1997.

This could only be achieved by a government which was strong and which had integrity, he added.

Asked whether the MCA could retain all the seats it won in the 1995 General Election, Dr Ling said, "We are confident as there is strong cooperation among the various BN component parties... and this remains the main basis."

The cooperation among the BN component parties was genuine unlike the opposition parties which had a chaotic relationship unable to unite and frequently involved in disagreements and quarrels, he said.

"Their words will not last for more than 24 hours. Today they say a DAP man can be Prime Minister, but tomorrow he no longer can and the day after he can, they will say," he said.

Asked whether there will be more woman candidates from the MCA, Dr Ling said: "I hope so, as we have thousands upon thousands of ladies joining the MCA and they have increased their role especially at committee or local council levels."

He said about 30 per cent of the MCA Senators were women and this would be the trend.

Women would be encouraged to participate when they had been trained and were capable.

Asked whether he was surprised over the announcement on the dissolution of the Dewan Rakyat, he said, "The Prime Minister always does very surprising things..... but in the final analysis he is always proven correct... this is a very well kept secret."

"So much so Samy Vellu (Works Minister and MIC President) is overseas... quite a number of people are overseas, they all didn't know. If they knew they will not go. Now they will have to come flying back," Dr Ling said.

"We have built KLIA, one of the best airports in the world, we have

built the LRT, very few cities in Asia have got the LRT... we have organised the Commonwealth Games, the best games ever in history. The people are very receptive to the BN."

"We have organised the Formula One race, which has put Malaysia on the world racing map and on the world tourism map because 600 million people worldwide watched F1 and with all the repeats 3 billion people will have watched the F1 in Malaysia," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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