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Mahathir-MCA

MCA HAS PLAYED A POSITIVE ROLE, SAYS THE PRIME MINISTER

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 Feb (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the MCA has played a positive role and contributed significantly towards national development and solidarity since its inception 50 years ago.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman and Umno president, hoped that the party would continue with its political struggle with more vigour in the interest of the nation and people.

As a united and stable political party, MCA was also able to play an effective role in various projects and activities that benefited the country and the people, he said.

He said this in his message published in a book in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the MCA launched by its president, Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, here today.

"Congratulations to the MCA on its achievements and contributions all these years," said Dr Mahathir.

He said the MCA had been a component party of the Alliance before the country achieved independence and later in the BN until today.

"As a political party representing the interests of the Chinese community in the country, MCA had carried out its responsibilities well and was always working together with the other BN component parties to ensure political stability," he said.

In his message, Dr Ling said the MCA would strive harder to ensure that Malaysia continued to enjoy political stability, prosperity and development in the years to come so that the objective of Vision 2020 would be achieved.

The Transport Minister said MCA would also continue with its cause for the nation and the people and move in line with the changes that were taking place to ensure a better future for everyone.

Speaking to reporters after the function, Dr Ling hoped the 384-page book could be made as a guide for all communities particularly students keen on the history of Malaysia's politics.

The book, written in Mandarin, showcased the history of the MCA and its struggles since its inception on Feb 27, 1949 till today.

Dr Ling said the book would be translated into English and Bahasa Melayu so that all races in the country could read it.

Asked on the MCA's chances of fielding candidates in the Sabah state elections on March 12 and 13, he said it would be determined by Dr Mahathir.

"We will know about it in a day or two," he said.

He said cabinet ministers from the MCA were frequently making trips to Sabah to meet with the people and explain the past and future measures by the federal government to help the people in the state.

He said the MCA had proven that it was an important link between the federal and state governments.

-- BERNAMA

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