

11 JAN 1999

Ling-Election

MCA HAS NO PLANS TO POSTPONE PARTY POLLS - LING

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 11 (Bernama) -- The MCA has no plans to follow Umno's move in deferring party elections scheduled for this year, its president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today.

However, the matter would be discussed by the MCA presidential council, he told reporters here.

"But my own thinking (is that) the members would like the elections to be quickly over," he said.

Dr Ling said he came to this conclusion based on his observations at meetings with party members throughout the country.

The MCA elections are scheduled for July 17.

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced last Friday that Umno elections, scheduled for June, were postponed to enable the party to focus on preparations for the coming general election which has to be held not later than April 2000.

Asked on the possibility of the general election being held this year, Dr Ling, who is Transport Minister, said it would take place when "Dr Mahathir gets the inspiration".

He said MCA was always ready to face the general election and so there was no question of the party starting to concentrate on it now.

"We had never stopped. All that we did since the last general election is for the coming general election," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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