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No place for complacency in recovery efforts, says Ling

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik today warned Malaysians not to be complacent in striving for economic recovery.

"There is no room for complacency and we have to act as one united people," he said after opening a MCA seminar, Currency Stabilisation: Impact after 12 Months, at the party's headquarters.

Bank Negara announced yesterday the gross demestic product for the second quarter had grown 4.1 per cent. The country had a 1.3 per cent GDP contraction for the first quarter of this year.

"It is clear from the figures. Exports continue to grow and airline load continues to rise," Dr Ling said.

He said port throughput for the first six months of this year had risen 42 per cent compared to the same period last year, and transshipment 144 per cent.

"All these figures show that the economy is healthy," he said, adding that the economic crisis had truly bottomed out.

Earlier in his speech, Dr Ling said the country should learn a few lessons from the crisis.

"To begin with, it proved what a strong able leadership and a united and committed citizenry can do."

He added that the country's remarkable performance was attributed to the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who had taken swift and bold measures to address the economic crisis.

He said Malaysians would like to see the country back among the Asian tigers with growth rates of eight per cent similar to that before the crisis.

On the opening up of the container hauling sector, Dr Ling said the Entrepreneur Development Ministry would have to determine the number of players and make an announcement once that had been done. He said the Government has been looking into opening the sector for some time.

Meanwhile, Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu congratulated the National Economic Action Council for bringing the country out of its economic problems.

"The MIC is confident that the GDP growth rate will be at least one per cent or more for the year," he said after a MIC central working committee meeting.

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