

11 MAR 1999  
Sabah-Ling  
WE WILL WIN IN API-API, SAYS LING

KOTA KINABALU, March 11 (Bernama) -- The MCA is confident of winning the sole seat it is contesting in the state election following increasing support from the people, party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today.

He said the people in Api-Api, particularly the Chinese community, were taken in by the "two-in-one government" formula offered by the Barisan Nasional (BN).

Ling was referring to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement last week that if Sabahans voted for the BN in the polls tomorrow and on Saturday, they would be getting at one go two governments (federal and state) cooperating closely in all matters.

"So, now I am really confident that on polling day BN will win, and in Api-Api we will also win.

"And we will get the first MCA candidate to represent BN within the state government," Ling told reporters before going on a campaign tour of the constituency in the heart of the state capital.

The candidate, Datuk Chau Tet On, won the Api-Api seat with a 2,180-vote majority in the 1994 election on a Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) ticket before joining the MCA.

In this election, Chau will be challenged by PBS' Dr Yee Moh Chai and Chin Chen Fui of Bersekutu.

On PBS' claim that the state BN merely implemented development programmes drawn up by PBS previously, Ling said the opposition party was not the first to form a government in the state.

"There have been previous governments before, so all governments would have helped. But it is the BN that came in with a large contribution," he said.

Ling also criticised the DAP for saying the BN would not secure a big majority in this election.

--BERNAMA  
HAK SK