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Flurry of activity as news about Liong Sik's resignation spreads across the country

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - A flurry of activities took place this morning as news of Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik's resignation from the Cabinet spread across the country.

From Putrajaya to the MCA headquarters in Jalan Ampang, Dr Ling's resignation as Transport Minister was the main talking point, drawing comments from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad down to the man in the street.

Dr Ling dropped the bombshell when he chaired the MCA presidential council meeting at party headquarters yesterday. Led by deputy president, former Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek, the council then passed a unanimous resolution rejecting the resignation and appealing to the party president to stay on.

Dr Ling maintained his decision was "irrevocable" and wanted it to be "respected".

This morning, Lim led a three-man delegation to see Dr Mahathir to convey the council's resolution to ask Dr Ling to reconsider his decision to resign.

Dr Ling held three Press conferences today. His third, held after meeting MCA MPs and assemblymen, appeared to have given hope to MCA members.

Dr Ling said he would "take note" of the appeals by MCA leaders from all over the country asking him to reconsider his decision. He said he would consult the Prime Minister before making a final decision.

Dr Ling spent the day at his Ministry meeting one MCA group after another, all pleading with him not to quit.

MCA vice-president Datuk Chua Jui Meng, who returned today after attending a World Health Organisation conference in Geneva, said Dr Ling should give serious consideration to his decision as he had successfully carried out his duties as Transport Minister.

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