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Ling-Decision

LING TO MAKE FINAL DECISION ON QUIT MOVE IN A FEW DAYS

SEPANG, June 5 (Bernama) -- MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik tonight returned from an overseas vacation and said he needs a few more days to make a final decision on his offer to resign from the Cabinet.

"Give me a few more days," he told reporters at the KL International Airport here on his return from Perth in Australia.

Asked how he felt after the break, Dr Ling smiled and gave the thumbs up.

Dr Ling, who is Transport Minister, took two weeks' leave on May 26 on the advice of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to think over his quit decision.

There have also been calls from MCA leaders, members and other quarters for Dr Ling to stay on as Transport Minister, a post he has held for 14 years.

On May 22, Dr Ling dropped a bombshell when he announced at the MCA Presidential Council meeting that he was resigning from the government but would remain party chief.

Hundreds of MCA supporters and leaders had gathered at the arrival hall from 8pm but the MAS aircraft carrying Dr Ling only touched down at 10.10pm.

Among those present to welcome Dr Ling were party secretary-general Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh, and vice-presidents Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn, Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting, Datuk Chua Jui Meng and Datuk Chan Kong Choy.

Dr Fong, who is Human Resources Minister, said party leaders would call on Dr Ling in a few days' time to find out his decision.

Ong said he had a chat with Dr Ling but the latter did not disclose his decision.

Ong, who is Housing and Local Government Minister, said he was sure Dr Ling could feel that those present to greet him wanted him to remain in the Cabinet.

"All of us who are here can feel the strong and solid support for Dr Ling (to stay on in the Cabinet). Our hope is that he will remain in the Cabinet and also as our leader," he said.

Chua, who is Health Minister, said Dr Ling looked happy on his return from Australia.

-- BERNAMA

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