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Ling's statement on decision to stay in Cabinet

FOLLOWING is the full statement of Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik made available at the Press conference yesterday afternoon:

My resignation as Minister of Transport has brought about unexpected reactions from:

- i) MCA leaders at all levels and party members;
- ii) leaders of Chinese Guilds and associations;
- iii) Barisan Nasional leaders;
- iv) and members of the public.

They have conveyed a message to me through telephone calls, through faxes, through the media and through my personal friends. I am touched. I am overwhelmed by the strong sentiment of support they have expressed, urging me to reconsider my decision.

I have also met with YAB Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister of Malaysia this afternoon. He has always been a source of inspiration and guidance to me. He advised me to stay.

After analysing all these expressions of support and advice from all quarters, be they from within or without the party, I now have a clearer picture of what the majority would like me to do.

I have made up my mind. I am respecting the wishes of all the party members, community leaders, friends and supporters. I will continue to serve.