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`No unreasonable demands please'

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik today urged all quarters to be considerate when making demands to the Government.

"The concept of sharing has been naturally taught, don't ask for more," he told reporters after opening the general meeting of the Gerakan Belia Bersatu Malaysia here.

Dr Ling, who is Transport Minister, was commenting on Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's reminder to Barisan Nasional component parties not to allow themselves to be influenced by extreme racial sentiments.

When opening the Gerakan national delegates conference in Penang yesterday, the Prime Minister said that although each of the component parties had to defend the rights and interests of the different races they represented, they had to take into consideration the sensitivity of others.

In supporting the Prime Minister's statement, Dr Ling said no one should make any unreasonable demands.

Meanwhile, in Ipoh, Geraldine Albela reports that National Unity Advisory panel member Datuk Lee Lam Thye says national unity cannot be achieved through legislation, but from one's inner self and appreciation of others and their cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

Lee hoped the advice by the Prime Minister would be followed by all component parties.

He said if any one race were allowed to make extreme demands it would cause ill-will among the various races.

"We must continue to stick to the Federal Constitution and Rukun Negara which form the basis for nation-building.

"Under the constitution, the rights of the various ethnic groups are taken into account," he said in an interview.

On the media, he said they had an important role in helping national unity.

"If the Press is fully conscious of current issues, and coverage is given to statements from various ethnic groups, then there should be no playing up of racial sentiments. I believe the Press is responsible enough to realise this," he said.

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