

I have no hatred for anyone, says Ling

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By Sharon Tan

PUTRAJAYA, Wed: MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today he has no hard feelings against his deputy Datuk Lim Ah Lek or any of the other leaders who opposed the takeover of Nanyang Press Holdings Bhd.

"I note what Ah Lek said on Monday. And I must tell you. I have no hard feelings against Ah Lek or anyone of the eight.

"I have no hatred. I must also confess that in all my years (as a politician), I have learnt not to get angry with people, but only have love in my heart for all members and friends.

"Unless you can have that kind of attitude, you are not going to get back the same response. If you have hatred in your heart, people will know

and hate you back," he said at a press conference after his weekly post-cabinet meeting.

Ling, who is the transport minister, also said that his door is always open to the eight for discussion.

"I will take their concerns seriously. Anytime they want to come and talk, my door is open. We can sit down and discuss. With all sincerity, I want to fulfil the spirit of the EGM, which is unity of the party," he said.

He also thanked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his concern for the MCA.

"He is the head of Barisan Nasional, and I am sure he wants to see all the parties within BN and all the people within each party working along together, and standing together to strengthen the BN."

Ling said that as leader of the MCA, it hurts him to see

cracks in the party. "We have built this party up in the last 15 years into a united party. Only of late we see cracks, and that is very, very painful.

"I was very touched at the EGM because every time anyone touched on the topic of unity, everybody clapped. I could also sense that this was the spirit of the EGM. What the delegates are trying to tell us is that to them, they don't want to see a split."

He said he is determined to fulfil the wishes of the EGM. "I really believe we must have a 100% party. We have just gone through the total political process, the presidential council, the central committee and the EGM, and that is the total democratic political process."

Ling expressed regret that he has been subjected to a smear campaign by certain quarters.

"All sorts of things have been said, all sorts of lies. Even some outsiders have been trying to throw in some court cases. The timing of these cases is becoming very political.

"Before an AGM or EGM, I always get these cases. It's becoming very suspicious.

"Time will tell. The truth will finally emerge. My conscience is very, very clear. I am going to *ren* (tolerate in Chinese) all these things because I 'am very, very confident," he said.

Asked if he knows the people behind the smear campaign, Ling said he does not know.

"I must declare to you all that I won't say a single bad word to anybody, because it's not worth it. There is no point hurting other people's feelings. Let us work towards unity, towards togetherness, and a 100% MCA."