

Lim ready to help if Ling is sincere

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PETALING JAYA, Mon: MCA deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek is willing to assist president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik to solve the party's problems.

He said if Ling is willing to heed the prime minister's advice and solve the crisis in the party, he is more than willing to help.

Lim said Ling should play a positive role in resolving the problems by getting the two warring factions to sit together and discuss ways to solve the problems.

"Ling could seek assistance from me or other leaders to get the two sides to work together in resolv-

ing the problems amicably" he told *The Sun*.

Lim was responding to the statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who called MCA leaders to swallow their pride and not to be too hard on each other.

In welcoming Mahathir's statement, Lim said the prime minister had given similar advice during the last Barisan Nasional (BN) supreme council meeting.

He also said he cannot do anything to help resolve the current problems as Ling kept on attacking and annihilating those who differed with him.

"Ling is in a position to

resolve the problems. Instead, he is doing the opposite. Some decisions he made are not for party unity and have resulted in a further split in MCA," he said.

Asked if Ling will heed Mahathir's advice, Lim said he "prays" that Ling will do so.

"If Ling has 10% of the leadership qualities of the prime minister, we would not face the problems plaguing MCA today," he said.

Lim added that he will do whatever possible to stop Ling from continuing to damage the image of the party and the BN.

Meanwhile, vice-presi-

dent Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said "Mahathir's advice is given with good intention and all leaders in the party should respect it..

"Everyone should honour the advice and there should not be any open statements attacking party leaders," he said.

On the unwillingness of both sides to compromise, Ong said Mahathir will find out the truth after getting more information and listening to both sides.

As far as the central committee is concerned, he added, all members are "very sincere" in trying to patch up things to enable the Youth movement to function.