

29 DEC 2001

Ling-Candidate

DR LING: FOUR NAMES PROPOSED TO DR M

KANGAR, Dec 29 (Bernama) -- The MCA has submitted four names of potential candidates to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for the Indera Kayangan by-election in Perlis, its president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today.

He said the party would accept anyone among the four Dr Mahathir picks as the Barisan Nasional (BN) candidate for the state seat.

He said he was confident that BN component parties would also support Dr Mahathir's choice of candidate.

"I'm also confident that candidates who are not selected would help to ensure BN's victory in the by-election," he told reporters after meeting Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim at his office here.

Dr Ling said it was MCA's practise to nominate names of several potential candidates for the consideration of Dr Mahathir, who is also BN chairman, but only one person would be chosen.

A by-election for the Indera Kayangan seat would be held following the death of its assemblyman Datuk Khor Liang Tee, who is also Perlis MCA chief, on Dec 19.

Dr Ling, who is Transport Minister, said he was satisfied with the Perlis MCA's election preparations, including the opening of four operations rooms.

BN component parties have also opened operations rooms with Umno setting up eight and one each by MIC and Gerakan, he said.

Umno Youth, Wanita Umno and Puteri Umno have also set up their respective operations rooms to ensure the BN retained the seat with a bigger majority.

Meanwhile, Shahidan, who is also Perlis BN chairman, said all top MCA leaders would be invited for the nomination day and their presence would show to the people that MCA was still united despite the internal problems in the party.

-- BERNAMA

RIS AD TS