

27 JAN 2001

Ling-PAS

DR M SINCERE IN PAS REJOINING BN, SAYS DR LING

KUALA KUBU BAHARU, Jan 27 (Bernama) -- MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was sincere when he said PAS could rejoin Barisan Nasional (BN) and Umno would not stand in the way.

He described the prime minister's statement as a unity call for all.

He said Dr Mahathir's statement exemplified the importance of national unity to all communities.

"I think Dr Mahathir's statement was made in all sincerity because I do not think if any community in a split will be helpful because every community has its own agenda," he told reporters at the Chinese New Year gathering hosted by the Hulu Selangor MCA division here.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said in Jitra on Thursday that Umno would not stand in the way of PAS if the latter wants to rejoin BN.

Dr Ling said every community had its own agenda that had to be pursued which would not benefit the community alone but also help in enhancing national unity.

"So, there is always an agenda for progress," he said, adding that a split would somewhat halt a community's progress and disrupt unity.

He said it would be easier if everyone in a community cooperated to achieve the agenda rather than be in conflict with each other.

"(But sometimes), it can be very difficult to achieve the smaller or larger agenda because the smaller agenda is the ethnic agenda," he said.

Dr Ling also said the Education Ministry's decision to relocate SJK (C) Damansara was a wise decision.

Yesterday, the ministry decided that the primary school must remain at its temporary premises in SJK (C) Puay Chai II until the new school in Tropicana is completed in two years.

Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad said the decision meant that the old school building in Section 17 Petaling Jaya would be closed.

Dr Ling said the school's board of governors and the Parent-Teacher Association requested for the shift for a good reason.

The 70-year-old school's present location was uncondusive for an educational institution because of a highway being built there, heavy traffic, air and noise pollution and the small size of the school -- 10,666 sq metre for 1,500 pupils, he added.

-- BERNAMA

RIZ DC TS