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Ling: Analyse the defeat in Lunas

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KOTA BARU, Sun. - MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said Barisan Nasional component parties should use the defeat in the Lunas by-election to analyse themselves.

Most importantly, he added, was the need to analyse the "voice of Lunas" which had led to the loss of a BN stronghold to the Opposition.

"There is an important message," he said after a meeting with Kelantan MCA leaders at the Chinese Assembly hall, here yesterday.

"Why in such a short period of only a year that there is a shift in the votes to the Opposition."

He said the BN won the Lunas seat with a majority of 4,700 votes in the 1999 general election.

"If we are brave in facing it, this small defeat (in Lunas) can help give us a big win in future.

"But we must be brave and prepared to analyse what that voice from Lunas says."

Dr Ling believed the BN component parties would be wise enough to be able to analyse the situation.

"We still have time to make appropriate changes," he said.

"Having led the country for over 40 years, there is enough wisdom, humility and courage for the BN to face whatever challenges to be able to rise to the occasion."

Likewise, he said the BN could recapture Kelantan and Terengganu from the Opposition, adding that to be able to do so, there was a need for all component parties to carry out a post-mortem of Lunas defeat.

"Then, we should all sit down and discuss it," he said.

He said meetings of the BN component parties were held more often now adding that this was in line with the call made by its chairman, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

On the relocation of the SJK (C) Damansara, he said it was a decision made following a request from the school's board of governors and the Parent-Teacher Association.

"It is not the Government which forced them," he added.

In another development, Dr Ling, who is Transport Minister, said the installation of the black box in buses would be completed before the end of the year.

The Ministry, he added, had given a six-month grace period for the device to be installed in buses.

However, he said the regulation only involved tour and express buses.

"The device will be installed when the buses are brought to Puspakom for their regular checks," he said.

Asked why the Government opted for the black box instead of other devices, he said it was decided after considering various aspects.

"It was found that the black box is less expensive and tamper-proof. Before, we used to have the speed warning device ... which could be easily damaged," he added.

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