

04 AUG 2001

Ling-Youth

MCA MEMBERS SHOULD DEFEND STABILITY AND PARTY UNITY

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 4 (Bernama) -- MCA members were today advised to defend the party's stability and preserve unity at all times in the interest of the party, said its President Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik.

Ling upset over the fracas which broke out at the 38 MCA Youth general assembly yesterday said the unruly behaviour of several youth delegates has had a negative impact and damaged the party's credibility.

"This matter will be investigated by the party's central committee, all MCA members have a role to assume in restoring the party's image and preserve unity," he said in his keynote address at the 48th MCA annual general assembly here today.

About 2,000 MCA delegates from around the country are attending the three-day assembly which was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Ling said stability and unity was not only his aspiration as president of the party but also the desire of all delegates to the general assembly today.

Ling also said MCA and its friends in Barisan Nasional are facing challenging times in their political struggle.

This is because the opposition, led by PAS has vowed to implement a different judiciary system should the party come to power, he added.

"Until now PAS is not bold enough to state on paper the Islamic state concept that it planned to establish.

"PAS leaders are always saying different things when they are faced with the Malay and non-Malay community, he said, adding that the Chinese community should not be influenced with their ploy.

Ling also said the establishment of Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) was a joint effort by the MCA and other component parties within BN and hoped future graduates from the university would be able to contribute towards knowledge-based economy and nation building.

The MCA President also reiterated MCA's stand that it would not get involved in the business and editorial operations of Nanyang Press Holdings Bhd.

"Friends outside are concerned that press freedom in both newspapers (Nanyang Siang Pao and China Press) may not exist anymore.

"Don't worry, Nanyang and China Press will not become the voice of the MCA," he assured.

Ling also said MCA's strength depended on the members as they decided if the party should remain dynamic, active and strong as envisioned by the community.

"Unity can only be attained if all members unite together, irrespective of whether they are young or old, men or women," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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