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Ling-Akar

OPENING OF SABAH UMNO TO CHINESE A POSITIVE MOVE, SAYS LING

KLANG, May 20 (Bernama) -- The MCA has no objection to Sabah Umno's move to open its doors to Chinese, MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today.

"Though MCA is already there (in Sabah), if given a chance they (the Chinese in Sabah) can join any of the BN components in the state. MCA is of the view that the move will be a step in the right direction," he told a press conference after chairing the Selangor MCA Liaison Committee meeting here.

It would not be a concern to MCA as the party had always worked closely with Umno to bring progress to the people, Ling said.

He said this when asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement in Sabah today that Chinese members of the disbanded Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat (Akar) can join Umno.

Asked whether MCA would try to bring them into its fold, Ling said the recruitment of members was a continuous process and any Chinese who wished to join the party can do so.

On today's meeting, Ling said issues discussed included the implementation of the pupils own language (POL) classes in government primary schools and the re-emergence of the illegal video gambling menace.

Ling, who is Transport Minister, said MCA wanted the Education Ministry to train more POL teachers before POL classes were introduced nationwide.

"Insufficient POL teachers will render the idea ineffective, so MCA wants the ministry to ensure that there are enough good teachers to conduct the classes in schools nationwide," he said.

Ling said it was not a good idea to pinch teachers from vernacular schools to teach POL as it would create another shortage.

It was better to implement it as a pilot project in some schools before extending it nationwide, he said.

On slot machines, Ling said MCA was concerned that the menace had resurfaced and it urged the local authorities and police to act against the operators.

-- BERNAMA

KM YBY