

31 DEC 2001

MCA-Meeting

TOP MCA LEADERS HOLD SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH DR MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, Dec 31 (Bernama) -- MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and a group of so-called Team B MCA leaders today met separately with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at his office here.

Dr Ling met Dr Mahathir, who is also Barisan Nasional chairman, at 3pm while the group led by deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek met him at 5pm.

The others in Lim's delegation were vice-president Datuk Chua Jui Meng, Youth chief Datuk Ong Tee Keat and Central Committee member Datuk Wong Mok Leong.

Both Dr Ling and Lim said the meetings focused on the impending Indera Kayangan state by-election in Perlis.

Dr Ling said he had submitted to Dr Mahathir MCA's candidate list for the by-election.

"It is up to the Prime Minister to decide, and I had a broad discussion with the Prime Minister on the candidates and also the by-election preparations," he told reporters after his meeting which lasted about 40 minutes.

Describing the meeting as good, Dr Ling said all MCA leaders would meet in Kangar on Saturday to finalise preparations for the by-election.

"Every MCA leader will go there as one team," he said.

Lim said they gave an assurance to Dr Mahathir that they would work hard and consolidate to ensure a big victory for BN in the by-election.

He also described the meeting as good and constructive.

However, he refused to comment when asked whether the problems between Team A, which is led by Dr Ling, and Team B were discussed during the one-hour meeting.

Asked if there would be Team A and Team B for the by-election, he said: "No Team A or Team B."

The Indera Kayangan seat fell vacant following the death of its assemblyman Datuk Khor Liang Tee, who was Perlis MCA chief, on Dec 19.

-- BERNAMA

AT AKT YBY