

# Ling: I'll work to overcome split in MCA

STAR 17 MAR 2002

■ By NICK LEONG

PETALING JAYA: MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik has pledged to do whatever necessary to overcome the split in the party.

Commenting on the statement by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad recently that the two factions within the party were hurting the feelings of the Chinese community because they were unwilling to co-operate, Dr Ling said they respected the Prime Minister's comments.

"We will do whatever necessary to overcome whatever temporary difficulties we may be having," he added, after attending a function by Xiamen Airlines from China yesterday.

The MCA leadership is split into Team A, led by Dr Ling, and Team B, led by deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek, going into the party elections in June.

Dr Ling said the message from the Chinese communi-

ty was clear - they do not want a squabbling MCA.

"They want a party that is united and positive with a constructive agenda. That is why, I had focussed and stressed on the development of the Tunku Abdul Rahman College, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman and pursued the country's economic agenda.

"We don't forget this just because someone wants to quarrel. The vast majority (of MCA members) don't want to quarrel," he added.

Asked about efforts by Team B leaders to postpone the party's election, Dr Ling said he would let the steering committee decide on the matter.

"If there is a ground, we will respect the decision but don't postpone for the sake of postponing," he added.

Dr Ling said the party's election was the highest authority for the MCA in deciding its leadership.

"I hope everyone will respect it," he added.