

Ling welcomes PM's intention to intervene

STAR 13 APR 2002

TEMERLOH: MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik has welcomed the Prime Minister's intention to meet him and his deputy Datuk Lim Ah Lek to settle the feud between them.

He said he believed that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had a solution to the quarrel.

"I believe that when Dr Mahathir expressed his wish to meet me and Lim, he has constructive advice for both of us to consider and maybe diffuse the differences I have with Lim."

He added that he was ever willing to meet Dr Mahathir whom he considered as "Father of Barisan Nasional."

"As a father, he has the right to get involved in this feud between his children within the party. I am happy that Dr Mahathir is going to mediate in this issue and hope that it will lead to a light at the end of the tunnel," he said after breaking ground for SRJK (C) Triang 2

here yesterday.

Dr Ling was asked on Dr Mahathir's statement in Kelantan that he was concerned over the escalating dispute between Team A and Team B.

To a question, Dr Ling, who is also Transport Minister, said he would meet Dr Mahathir with an open mind and was not sure whether the prime minister would meet him and Lim together or separately.

To another question, Dr Ling said he would not speak ill of Lim although the latter had said their relationship was beyond reconciliation.

"Lim can say anything he wants but I am open to another relationship with him and I believe we can still work together like old times. I want him to remember the good and the bad times we had together and like I have said, I can still work with him despite what he has said about me," he added.

On Lim's promise that Dr

Ling would not go unchallenged in the party elections, Dr Ling said: "I cannot remember when was the last time I did not have to fight to defend my post."

"And who says that I have never been challenged in all the years that I have been in politics? Nothing comes easy."

Lim, when reached in Kuala Lumpur, said he welcomed Dr Mahathir's help to resolve the problems of the MCA, describing the offer as "very good and very timely."

"I am very confident the Prime Minister, with his vast experience and ability to solve problems, will be able to come up with an amicable solution for MCA this time," he said.

Asked whether the EGM would be on if Dr Mahathir advised against it, Lim said: "We must not speculate. Leave it to the Prime Minister. He knows what to do. He has solved more difficult problems before."