Dr Ling: Set aside differences, work towards greater unity

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik has appealed to members to support the no-contest advice of the party's central committee and to set aside all differences and work towards greater unity.

He said he was aware that there was anger and confusion among members following the announcement yesterday, but urged them to look at the larger picture and channel their energy towards something constructive.

"We must understand the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's wish... which is not to stop the democratic process but to instil peace, harmony and stability and to make all of us friends again," Dr Ling, who is also Transport Minister, said after his ministry's post-Cabinet meeting.

He said the central committee meeting yesterday was a good start towards fostering better unity when all members unanimously agreed that status quo be retained at divisional levels and above.

On the status of Youth leaders who passed the 45-year age limit, he said the three-man committee which had been appointed to take over the functions of the Youth central committee would work out the details.

He said the steering committee would get feedback from the ground and work out the details pertaining to any division leader who wanted to retire or step down to make way for a younger leader and any other matters.

He said once the details were worked out, he might call for a central committee or presidential council meeting to study the proposals.

"Please understand that the no-contest advice is only temporary. Once peace and stability returns, everything will be back to normal," Dr Ling said.

On his hopes for future co-operation between the factions, he said there was still plenty of goodwill among the members and urged them to set aside all differences and work on common ground.

"We believe that if there is unity, we can always stand firm," he added.