

Dr Ling criticises rumour mongers

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‘Their intention is to cause confusion’

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SEPANG, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today people who were spreading news of his resignation as MCA president and Transport Minister are “evil-minded” and “pathological liars”.

He said these rumour mongers wanted to cause confusion among MCA members.

“That is their intention, to create confusion.”

Thanking the Prime Minister for clearing the air over the issue yesterday, Dr Ling said it was now up to the people to believe Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad or the “malicious rumours”.

“These rumour mongers have been saying the same thing for years and nothing happens. There must be something wrong with them,” he said after arriving at the

Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

Dr Ling was in the Philippines to hold air talks. Next month, he will be part of Dr Mahathir’s delegation to Luxembourg.

Since the return of businessman Datuk Soh Chee Wen, the rumours had been rife with postings on local Chinese websites that Dr Ling would relinquish his party and ministerial posts soon.

Yesterday, Dr Mahathir said he did not ask Dr Ling to step down and it was up to party members to decide who should lead the party.

“I hope with Dr Mahathir’s clarification, the confusion that has been created by these evil people will disappear,” he said.

Dr Ling said he also had no clue why people were talking about him having signed a document purportedly promising to quit active politics before the next general election, due in 2004.

Asked if he knew the people behind the rumours, he said he did not want to label people for things of which he had no proof. “I have never resorted to such things.”

On whether he had any advice for the rumour mongers, Dr Ling said: “I think they are pathological liars. They are sick in their minds. I don’t think any advice would do them any good.”

Dr Ling said these people were “beyond cure”.

“I think the grassroots know what to do. Many are already *jelak* (fed up) of the rumours,” he said.

Asked how he would describe his position in the party now, Dr Ling, who has led MCA for 16 years, said the majority of the members appreciated what he was doing.

Pressed to say if he would defend his Labis parliamentary seat in the next general election, Dr Ling said if the people there wanted him to, he would continue serving.