

# ***MCA leaders turn up for final push***

**STAR** 1 8 JUL 2002

ALOR STAR: MCA leaders led by party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik turned up in full force here yesterday for the final lap of the campaigning for the Pendang and Anak Bukit by-elections.

Expressing confidence in a Barisan Nasional victory in both seats today, Dr Ling said he made this prediction from feedback on the ground.

"I am walking this last day (of campaigning) with confidence that the people will reward good people's representatives. The message we get is that both our candidates have been very close to the people, cared for the people and served the people.

"I think the people want to reward them with a victory," Dr Ling told reporters midway through a door-to-door campaign in Pantai Johor.

Dr Ling said Barisan's Pendang candidate Datuk Othman Abdul did not forget his supporters although he lost in the 1999 general election.

He said he had noticed that Barisan's Anak Bukit candidate Datuk Zakaria Said, who did not contest in 1999, was genuinely liked by the people.

Dr Ling also said the people he had spoken to in the campaign rounds have a very high regard for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He also said it had been very advantageous to have Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in the campaign who worked

tirelessly all day long.

"His gentle and very sincere style has won the hearts of the people. He is a people's leader," the Transport Minister said.

The other MCA leaders actively involved in the last-minute campaigning were deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek, vice-presidents Datuk Chua Jui Meng, Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting and Datuk Chan Kong Choy, Wanita MCA chief Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen, central committee member Datuk Fu Ah Kiow and others.

Lim said the Barisan was confident of regaining the Anak Bukit state seat but would not take things for granted.

"Every vote counts, be it

Chinese, Malay, Indian or Thai. We're not going to leave any voter out in our campaign," he told reporters at Kampung Siam here.

Lim said if any voter failed to come out, they would go and fetch them two hours before polling closes.

"Everywhere we go, we are being greeted with lots of warmth. The Chinese voters are very sure of what they want. There are no fence-sitters among them," he said.

"The response has been very encouraging and the latest development in Terengganu has actually alerted the voters in Anak Bukit that they should check the spread of religious extremism," he said.