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Ling-MCA

DR MAHATHIR'S STATEMENT IS A FACT, SAYS DR LING

JOHOR BAHRU, Dec 12 (Bernama) -- MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was stating a fact when he said Barisan Nasional (BN) had the right to determine its membership.

Dr Ling said the BN president's statement was a fact and the MCA did not take it as a warning.

He said this when visiting the Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (Utar) project site in Kulai, near here. The site was offered by Yayasan Pelajaran Johor Holdings Sdn Bhd.

Dr Mahathir yesterday said any component party which was not prepared to adhere to the BN stand meant that the party concerned did not uphold the BN's cooperative spirit and the BN had the right to determine the parties which could become its coalition partners.

The Prime Minister said this when commenting on Dr Ling's statement earlier that the BN could not impose any disciplinary action directly on any individual in its component party.

According to Dr Ling today, the MCA's action in handling the case concerning two Penang State Assemblymen from the party who abstained from voting on the motion moved by the opposition at the State Assembly sitting last month was based on the BN rules and constitution.

He said the MCA constantly referred to and discussed with the BN president whenever any problem cropped up that needed a decision to be made and this was the practice all this while.

The MCA would continue to uphold the culture and cooperative spirit within the BN, he said.

Dr Ling said the action on the two State Assemblymen concerned would be taken after the disciplinary committee investigating the case submitted its report.

Dr Ling, meanwhile, denied that the committee would make its decision tomorrow as reported by the media.

"If they (disciplinary committee) need one week (to investigate)...it's unlikely that the decision would be known within an hour," he said.

Lim Boo Chang (BN-Datuk Keramat) and Tan Cheng Liang (BN-Jawi) will give their statements to the committee tomorrow regarding their move to abstain when a vote was taken on the motion by the DAP to have the Penang Outer Ring Road (PORR) project postponed.

The BN component parties had strongly criticised the move by Lim and Tan and had even pressed the MCA to expel them.

-- BERNAMA

BH MOZ AO