

05/12/2002

Liow ready to pave way for Ah Lek's comeback

BENTONG, Wed. - Bentong MP Liow Tiong Lai said he is willing to pave the way for former MCA deputy president Datuk Seri Lim Ah Lek to contest the Bentong parliamentary constituency in the general election.

Liow said Lim's return to active politics was very meaningful to the Barisan Nasional as it would contribute greatly to BN's success in the general election.

"I welcome Lim's presence in the coming election as he will surely be able to make a difference.

"He is someone who always places the party's struggle before himself."

Liow said Lim had also played a significant role in attracting the Chinese voters in the by-elections in Indera Kayangan in Perlis and Ketari in Bentong.

"I feel it would be best for Lim to be with us in the coming general election as his presence will benefit BN," he said yesterday.

Liow was commenting on Lim's statement that he was willing to contest in the general election.

Lim, after the MCA's 53rd anniversary dinner at Sekolah Rendah Jenis Kebangsaan (C) Repas, last night, said if he had the support of the people he would make a comeback.

"I am prepared to return and face the challenge in the next general election only if I have the support of the people and if they want me to do so," said the former Human Resources Minister and former Bentong MP.

Lim said the 1999 general election had seen the Opposition in Pahang retaining the Triang seat and winning seven other seats in the State.

"The influence of the Opposition is also a reason for me to make a comeback.

"If I am not able to contest, I will still continue to give my services and undivided support to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi," he said.