

14 APR 2002

Ling-MCA

DR LING EXPECTS TO MEET LIM OVER PLAN TO END PARTY CRISIS

SEREMBAN, April 14 (Bernama) -- MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said it is "very likely" that he will meet his deputy Datuk Lim Ah Lek over a plan outlined by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to resolve the crisis in MCA.

He said the plan had made it easier for him to "gain accessibility" to meet Lim.

"I am fully supportive of and work very hard to achieve the peace agenda," he told reporters after opening the Malaysian-Singapore Coffeeshop Proprietors Association general meeting here today.

Dr Ling said despite the protracted problems between the two factions in the party, he harboured no ill-feelings against Lim.

Dr Ling heads Team A while Lim leads Team B, and the two have been at odds over several issues, the latest being the party's membership list.

"As the elder brother, I should stomach whatever (criticisms) for the sake and future of the MCA. This is good for the long-term objectives of the party.

"I have nothing against him, and he is still my good friend and a member of the MCA family. As the elder brother, even if he scolds me, I will not scold him back," he said.

He said the Prime Minister "is a very fatherly figure" and he was grateful to Dr Mahathir for offering advice to settle the problems in MCA.

Asked on Team B's plans to go ahead with an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) next Sunday, he said: "Don't worry about the EGM. What happens in the future, I don't want to speculate."

Yesterday, Dr Ling met Dr Mahathir to discuss the latest developments in MCA, during which the latter "outlined an agenda for stability and peace".

Dr Ling was accompanied to the meeting by vice-presidents Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting and Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn.

-- BERNAMA

APG YBY