

30 NOV 2002

MCA-Sacking

MCA WILL TAKE ACTION ON ITS TWO REPS, SAYS LING

BINTULU, Nov 30 (Bernama) -- MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik today hinted that MCA will sack the two MCA state assemblymen from Penang, who had breached party discipline, from the Barisan Nasional (BN).

He said MCA was already taking necessary action to deal with Lim Boo Chang (Datuk Keramat) and Tan Cheng Liang (Jawi), who had breached party discipline by abstaining from voting against a motion moved by the opposition in the Penang state assembly recently.

"We always listen to the advice of our friends (in the BN)," he told reporters after inspecting the progress of the new RM385 million Bintulu airport, about 45 minutes' drive from here.

Ling, who is also Transport Minister, was asked to comment on Umno President and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday that Umno wanted the two MCA backbenchers to be sacked.

However Umno, which made the decision at its supreme council meeting, said the matter must be decided by the BN.

He said the new airport, which was expected to operational by March next year, could accommodate Boeing 747 and Airbus although it was originally built to cater for the Boeing 737.

Developed by Happy Global, a company owned by Sarawak tycoon Tan Sri Ting Pek Kiing, it was completed one year ahead of schedule.

With the longest runway in Sabah and Sarawak, measuring 2,750 metres, he was confident that it would serve as a catalyst of growth for the region due to the location of many industries like the mega Bakun dam project, aluminium smelting plant and new Similajau port.

He said apart from primary commodities such as palm oil, a lot of heavy machinery, which required air transportation by Boeing 747 or Airbus to the industrial sites, would be utilizing the airport.

Prime Minister Dr Mahathir is scheduled to officiate at its soft opening on Dec 19, he said.

-- BERNAMA

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