

27 JUL 2002

MCA-Ling

PARTY UNITY IMPORTANT IF MCA WANTS TO BE A VALUABLE BN COMPONENT

KUALA LUMPUR, July 27 (Bernama) -- Party unity is very important if the MCA wants to continue to be a valuable component of the Barisan Nasional (BN), MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today.

He said the MCA's enemies outside the BN would try to capitalise on the disunity and upheaval within the party to weaken it.

"The MCA wants to record its appreciation to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his advice as BN chairman to the party to resolve its internal problems," he said in his speech at the 49th MCA general assembly, here.

The assembly was opened by Dr Mahathir as BN chairman. Present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, BN component leaders and MCA veterans.

Dr Ling said that as a BN partner, the MCA had contributed to the country's economic recovery with its women and youth wings and its economic bureau spearheading the effort.

He said the nationwide gatherings organised by the party to raise awareness of the need to step up domestic spending had helped to stimulate the local businesses and saved the country foreign exchange.

He said seminars were also held to help the public and MCA members identify new businesses and to guide them to acquire new skills to make them more employable in other sectors.

Dr Ling also said that the MCA had launched many education programmes and given all sorts of assistance to schools under its Lanagkawi project.

He said that with the first intake of students for Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (Utar) on June 10, the party had realised its dream to help the government meet the need of the young generation for university education.

-- BERNAMA

AT SR AZZ JK