

12 APR 2002
Mahathir-MCA
PM TO MEET DR LING, LIM AH LEK

KOTA BAHARU, April 12 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional Chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will meet MCA President Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and Deputy President Datuk Lim Ah Lek in an effort resolve the problems within the key BN component party.

Speaking to reporters here, the Prime Minister who is visiting Kelantan, said the meeting would be held at anytime now.

The prolonged crisis in the MCA has split the party into two groups, the so called Team A and Team B to the chagrin of BN supporters and other BN component parties.

Team B leader, Lim, said his relationship with Dr Ling had broken as a result of his long standing dispute with the party president.

In the latest development, Team B proposes to hold an extraordinary general meeting on April 21.

Dr Mahathir said the misunderstanding in the MCA would not bring any benefit.

"I think, misunderstandings such as this will not bring any benefit and I believe they can settle the matter through negotiations," the Prime Minister said.

On his meeting with the leaders of Kelantan Umno led by Datuk Mustapa Mohamed, Dr Mahathir said it was a normal meeting.

"It is just to find out how we can win in Kelantan," he said.

"There are no problems and even if there are, we can settle them. It is an internal issue.... within the family," he said when asked about talk that certain Umno Divisions in Kelantan wanted to topple Mustapa.

Asked about press reports that the Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia (AIM) management was under ACA (Anti-Corruption Agency) investigation, the Prime Minister said the government would wait for the ACA report.

"If there is a case, the ACA is duty bound to take appropriate action," he said.

The ACA began investigating the AIM management as it was believed to have illegally channelled millions of ringgit from the Sahabat AIM Funds account for administrative purposes.

The Government was reported to have allocated RM300 million to AIM under the seventh and eighth Malaysia Plans to help poor people.

Soon after arrival here, the Prime Minister held a two-hour dialogue session with some 1,500 Federal Government officers in Kelantan at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) branch campus at Kubang Kerian.

He followed this up with an hour-long meeting with Kelantan Umno leaders also at the USM branch campus.

-- BERNAMA
RAR RAR AAM