

Liong Sik pays tribute to Dr Mahathir

STAR - 4 JAN 2003

PUTRAJAYA: MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik yesterday paid tribute to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, describing the Prime Minister as the source of the nation's dynamic progress.

Dr Ling said he was travelling along the North-South Expressway when he remembered an old Chinese saying *yin shui si yuan*.

"It means that when you drink water, always remember the source. Then it came to my mind the source of the beautiful highway were the four Ms, 'Mahathir's Milestone to Modernise Malaysia'," he said during an open house at his ministry here to celebrate the festivals of Hari Raya, Deepavali and Christmas.

Dr Ling said apart from the highways, it was also the Prime Minister's vision to build the Petronas Twin Towers, KLIA, Westport, Putrajaya and Cyberjaya - all renowned projects recognised around the world.

He urged all Malaysians to remember and acknowledge Dr Mahathir's vision.

"When we think of the source of our goodness in life, we think of our parents. When we think of the country, we remember Dr Mahathir. Just think back, for the last 21 years, his vision has modernised the country," he said.

On another matter, Dr Ling said the Government had yet to decide whether to place armed sky marshals on Malaysian passenger planes as more discussion on the matter was needed. "We won't be rushed into

putting sky marshals in our planes just because somebody is doing it. In some countries the conditions are different.

"Moreover, sky marshals are not put on every flight, only flights on high-risk routes," he said.

Dr Ling also refuted claims by some countries that Malaysia was a high-risk country.

"Malaysia is a safe country. Those foreign travel advisories must provide the right information," he said. On MCA matters, Ling said the party had yet to receive any appeal from the two suspended Penang state legislative assembly representatives.

He said the appeal period

had ended on Dec 31 and believed both Lim Boo Chang (Datuk Keramat) and Tan Cheng Liang (Jawi) had accepted the suspension meted out by the party.

"MCA is prepared to consider any appeal from them, but until now I have not received any news on the matter. I think they accepted the decision," he said.

Both were suspended from the party indefinitely last month by the Presidential Council for refusing to vote against an opposition's motion to defer the RM1.02b Penang Outer Ring Road Project at the Penang State Legislative Assembly.