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Ling-Resignation

DR LING TO KEEP THE PARTY PRESIDENCY UNTIL 2005

PUTRAJAYA, Jan 8 (Bernama) -- MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today that he has no intention to step down from his party post until his term is completed in 2005 while he leaves his cabinet post to the prime minister.

Dr Ling said the cabinet meeting today did not discuss his undated resignation letter which was submitted to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last year.

"My term stretches until 2005. I have not thought of any other different length as yet," he told reporters at his office at the Transport Ministry here.

Dr Ling was asked about his party post which he had held since 1986 following his intention to resign his cabinet post.

Yesterday, Dr Ling announced for the second time since 2000 that he had submitted an undated letter on his resignation as transport minister to Dr Mahathir in May last year.

He said Dr Mahathir informed the Barisan Nasional supreme council meeting yesterday about the letter and it was now up to the prime minister to decide on the effective date.

Dr Ling also said that he had accomplished his agenda to serve the nation since he took up the cabinet post in 1976.

Asked why he was not keeping his cabinet post until 2005, he said he did not have to wait until 2005 to decide to resign.

He had earlier wanted to relinquish his cabinet post but was not successful, he said.

Dr Ling was also asked to comment on a report by a Chinese daily today that Dr Mahathir had disclosed his resignation letter to the BN supreme council following a query by MCA deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek who had heard rumours about Dr Ling's resignation.

"No, Lim stayed quite far away and he has not asked anything during the meeting," he replied.

-- BERNAMA

AT MFZ JK