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Ling-Resignation

DR LING TO MEET PM OVER HIS RESIGNATION FROM CABINET TOMORROW

KUALA LUMPUR, May 27 (Bernama) -- Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today that he is now ready to once again discuss his resignation from the Cabinet as the leadership transition in the MCA has been completed.

Dr Ling, who relinquished his post as MCA president last week, said that he would discuss the matter with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad after the Cabinet meeting tomorrow.

"I've submitted an undated letter of resignation which up to now the Prime Minister has very kindly not acted upon, but I shall be discussing with the Prime Minister again, because I think the transition of leadership has smoothly, constitutionally taken place. I think we should be talking about the next phase...", he told reporters after opening the Railtech International Conference and Exhibition 2003 here.

The former MCA president was asked whether he would go ahead with his intention to resign from his Cabinet post, now that the MCA leadership issue has been resolved.

Asked whether "the next phase" meant that he wanted to relinquish his post in the Cabinet, Dr Ling replied in the affirmative.

During the last three years, Dr Ling attempted twice to quit as Transport Minister.

The first time he tendered his resignation letter was in May 2000 but after being persuaded by various parties, he announced his willingness to continue to serve in the Cabinet.

The second attempt was in January this year when he was reported as saying that he had submitted his resignation to the Prime Minister in August 2002. However, Dr Mahathir has yet to make any decision on the matter.

Asked whether he would recommend a candidate to replace him, Dr Ling said that he could always make a recommendation but it was Dr Mahathir's prerogative to decide.

Asked about his plans to take leave, Dr Ling said that he would do that soon. He, however, declined to say when that would be.

Last Friday, the MCA Central Committee accepted the resignation of Dr Ling as the party president and Dr Lim Ah Lek as deputy president in efforts by the party to resolve its leadership crisis.

-- BERNAMA

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