

28 JAN 2003

Ling-Line-up

GIVE ABDULLAH A CHANCE TO CHOOSE HIS OWN NEW LINE-UP

PUTRAJAYA, Jan 28 (Bernama) -- MCA President Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik today said it was only right to ask appointed political representatives to resign once their leaders leave office.

This would give the leader's successor the chance to choose his own new line-up, he said.

"I always tell the people (whom) I appointed, that when I leave, you must go and give the next fellow the chance to choose, whether he wants you or he wants other people," he said.

"If I appointed you, when I leave, you should also go and let the next man choose his own team, with whom he can work together."

Dr Ling was responding to a question following Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's recent statement that Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi should be given the chance to appoint new faces.

Dr Mahathir was quoted as saying on Sunday that it would be good if elected representatives offer to resign so that Abdullah, as the next Prime Minister, could form his own line-up and gear up for the next general election.

Dr Ling, who is the Transport Minister, said this to reporters after meeting representatives from the Associated Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACCCIM) at his office, here, today.

Dr Ling also said that Dr Mahathir had the right to make such a call as it was absolutely within his prerogative.

When asked whether he believed that the call by the Prime Minister was a "hint" to certain members of his government that they should go, Dr Ling said, "I will not read the PM's mind".

Dr Mahathir was quoted as saying that the move would give Abdullah a chance to rearrange and appoint his chosen candidates, replacing those who have been around for too long and those who had been appointed him.

Meanwhile MIC Youth urged leaders of BN component parties not to be "too aggressive" in pursuing the issue of asking older leaders to step down.

This would have a negative effect on the BN in the next general election, its treasurer P.Manivasagam said.

He said BN elected representatives need not publicise their wish to step down but instead go quietly and tell the Prime Minister or the Deputy Prime Minister that they wished to resign.

-- BERNAMA
WNZ KHY AAM