

26 MAR 2003

Ling-MCA

MCA IS STABLE, SAYS DR LING

PUTRAJAYA, March 26 (Bernama) -- MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today that the party is stable and the vast majority of the members are focusing on working towards achieving the party's agenda.

According to Dr Ling, the peace plan initiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had enabled more than 90 per cent of party posts being elected unopposed and thus providing peace and harmony in the party.

He said with this kind of stability, the members were fully focused on working to ensure the success of the party's agenda such as raising funds for the Tunku Abdul Rahman University where so far some RM170 million have been collected within a short span of time.

"Of course some people don't enjoy to see this stability and achievement...say something off and on and try to distract from the positive work going on. But I'm glad generally things are stable, so only a few make noise here and there," he said when asked about the problems besetting the party such as counter allegations of money politics and triad involvement and the effectiveness of the peace plan.

Later, Dr Ling, who is also Transport Minister, chaired his ministry's post-Cabinet meeting at his office here.

Dr Ling said the party and members would not be distracted from the challenges ahead and party agenda by the action of a few people.

"So we're not going to allow ourselves to be distracted by the small group doing this. I think it will just wither away. Our members are very intelligent and able to make their choice and the majority had made the choice...they want peace, harmony, and constructive agenda. That's what we're providing.

"Now there're less and less talk on the fringe," he said.

Replying to a question, Dr Ling said he has no major differences with his deputy, Datuk Lim Ah Lek.

"I still think he's my friend, I hope he's my friend because there's no big quarrel. There hasn't been any major differences. So my attitude is all MCA members are my friends. So the main problem is not with me," said Dr Ling.

-- BERNAMA

RV SHI RM