

08 JAN 2003

Mahathir-MCA

PM HAS NOT DECIDED ON DR LING'S RESIGNATION OFFER

PUTRAJAYA, Jan 8 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that he has not made any decision on MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik's intention to resign his post as Transport Minister.

Referring to Dr Ling's undated resignation letter, which was sent to him on Aug 15 last year, the prime minister said: "I received the letter long ago but I have yet to agree to his resignation."

Dr Mahathir was met by reporters at the Tasik Putrajaya Club here after witnessing a demonstration by a hovercraft designed by local inventor Amrul Nizar Anuar, 30, in collaboration with Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM).

Dr Ling announced after the Barisan Nasional (BN) supreme council meeting yesterday his intention to resign from his cabinet post and that he left it to the prime minister to decide on a suitable date.

Asked when he would make his decision on Dr Ling's status, Dr Mahathir said: "I'm thinking."

The prime minister was also asked to comment on the views of some parties that Dr Ling was ridiculing the cabinet by his action as he had voiced similar intention to resign several times before.

"He has given a letter saying that he wants to resign. Only I'm not letting him resign. It's up to me (to make the decision), so (Dr Ling) is not ridiculing the cabinet," he said.

Asked to comment on the controversy arising from the Perlis government's decision to relax the conditions for polygamy in the state, he said: "We think it's better for us not to talk too much but to have a discussion among experts in the field of religion and law. I cannot make a statement."

Earlier, Dr Mahathir drove the hovercraft around the Putrajaya lake for 10 minutes.

He said Malaysia had the ability to produce cheaper hovercraft locally.

-- BERNAMA

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