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MCA-Letter

LING: RESIGNATION TO PAVE WAY FOR SMOOTH, CONSTITUTIONAL TRANSITION

KUALA LUMPUR, May 23 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik says in his resignation letter that his decision to resign now is to pave way for a smooth, constitutional transition of leadership in the MCA.

In the resignation letter submitted to MCA secretary-general Datuk Seri Dr Ting Chew Peh, Dr Ling said that his resignation is not tendered with a heavy heart but with a sense of ease in the knowledge that the party will be in capable hands.

"I have great confidence in the character and ability of my successors," he said in the letter.

Copies of Dr Ling's resignation letter, which is undated, were distributed to members of the media by his press secretary, Ong Boon See, as soon as Dr Ling left the meeting. Ong also said that Dr Ling is expected to hold a media conference at the party headquarters at 11am tomorrow.

Dr Ling also thanked vice-presidents Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting and Datuk Chan Kong Choy for what he described as "their cooperation in making the transition possible" and that their maturity has made the discussion on the succession not lengthy but very fruitful.

Dr Ling also thanked party members and all those he has worked with as well as Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who has always been fatherly and never selfish with his words of wisdom and guidance.

"Finally, I must say that in all these years of service to the MCA, I have always tried to give of my best. Forgive me, if my best was sometimes not good enough," he said.

Meanwhile, speaking to the press, Datuk Seri Lim Ah Lek said that his decision to resign as MCA deputy president was "final and without any hesitation", with immediate effect.

He said that his resignation letter was sent to Ting last week with the intention to unite the party and for the good of the Barisan Nasional.

"I felt relieved...I felt very, very relieved. I felt like a ton of bricks has been removed from my shoulders," he told reporters upon leaving the meeting room.

Expressing his gratitude and thanks to party members, the Chinese community and those who have supported him all this while, Lim said that he would still contribute to the party and the BN in his individual capacity, especially in the next general election.

Asked who will be the successor, Lim said "the Central Committee is discussing it."

Meanwhile, when approached by reporters, Ting said that he received Dr Ling's resignation letter on Monday (May 19) and Lim's letter last week.

He said that Dr Ling's resignation letter was dated May 19 and was submitted to the party headquarters (addressed to the secretary-general) on the same day while Lim's resignation letter was dated May 16 and was submitted to the party headquarters (addressed to the secretary-general) on May 21.

"Both leaders' decision (to resign) was announced at the CC meeting today," he said.

Both resignations were part of the full implementation of the peace plan, brokered by Dr Mahathir to end the 14-month internal dispute between the two factions in the party.

The 53-year-old party was split into two factions -- one aligned to Dr Ling or dubbed as "Team A" while another faction, Team B, is linked to his

deputy, Lim.

Dr Ling and Lim left the CC meeting after their resignation was announced to the CC which continued with the discussion whether to accept or reject their resignation.

However, after an hour-long meeting, the CC decided to reject their resignation and instead send two delegations to persuade them to reconsider their decision.

The CC has been adjourned to 8pm today when the final decision on the resignation would be announced.

-- BERNAMA

AT AHH RM