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MCA Youth: No comment on Ling

Chong Chee Seong

MUAR, Fri. - MCA Youth will not spell out its official stand on the resignation of party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik as Transport Minister until it is clear on the truth of the matter.

Its chief Datuk Ong Tee Keat said the movement had not taken a decision because there were conflicting reports on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's reply to Dr Ling's resignation letter.

He said he could not be sure whether the offer to quit had been turned down or Dr Mahathir had yet to decide on it.

"I have compared reports in several English, Bahasa Malaysia and Chinese newspapers and am puzzled by the use of words such as belum and tidak (has not and does not), supposedly to describe the Prime Minister's reply to the resignation letter."

Ong said certain newspapers had carried the interpretation giving the impression that the offer to quit was not agreed upon by Dr Mahathir.

"I have yet to get the real interpretation on the issue as I cannot understand clearly the conflicting words used by the newspapers."

Ong was speaking to reporters last night at the 40th anniversary and fund-raising Basketball Night function organised by the Muar Basketball Association to buy a piece of land for its home stadium.

He said it was Dr Mahathir's prerogative to decide on Dr Ling's resignation even though the MCA president had clearly stated his intention to vacate the Cabinet post.

Dr Ling's resignation should not affect the party, he said.

Ong said the most important issues facing MCA now was the party's political future, the continuous Chinese community support for it and members' solidarity.

"We are racing against time to strengthen the party and unite all members to face the coming general election, and for this, we want to be a strong partner in Barisan Nasional."