

WILL *of* IRON

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Pelanduk
Publications



M
923 2545
JIN-L

M 822052

7 MAY 1996
Perpustakaan Negara
Malaysia

WILL
of IRON

“ *Malaysia's plural society comprising various cultures and religions is a source of strength and not an obstacle to progress.* ”

—Ling Liong Sik



Dato' Seri Dr. Ling Liong Sik, an elected people's representative since 1974, is a senior Malaysian cabinet minister. He is the president of the second largest political party in Malaysia, the Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA), with a total membership nearing 650,000 Malaysians of Chinese origin. Though he is the highest-ranking political leader of the Malaysian Chinese community, he performs effectively as an all-rounded Malaysian political leader. Ling is a man with strong principles, and putting principle above popularity is his style. He stands firm in defending the constitutional rights of Malaysian Chinese citizens and at the same time works very hard at promoting racial unity in Malaysia. He believes ardently in building a strong and united Malaysian nation. He always stresses that the diversity of the Malaysian plural society has emerged as a source of strength for the country and not as an obstacle to progress. He has succeeded in instilling confidence in the Malaysian Chinese community - that today, the Malaysian Chinese are no less Chinese, but instead are more Malaysian.

Ling, as a person, is well-known for his values of humility, hard work, sincerity, respect for others, having a caring attitude, being positive in his thinking and having a visionary outlook. A cool and calm leader, he is determined to serve the people and to build a strong Malaysian society and hence a strong nation. And he has the will of iron to achieve it.



THE STATESMAN

*"I don't think of the next election.
I think of the next generation."*



As a senior Cabinet minister, Ling always puts the nation's interest above self-interest. Ling was conferred the title "Dato' Seri" by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.



He participated in formulating most of Malaysia's nation building policies. He always ensures that policies decided in Cabinet are fair and just to all races and will benefit the people and the country before they are presented to the Parliament for debate.



Ling receiving an award from the Sultan of Selangor.



Bilateral talks with China – Ling played an active role in establishing China-Malaysia ties.



“ We should continue to strive to inculcate the value of tolerance, sharing, caring, co-operation, respect for one another, humility, hard work, and a positive and constructive attitude to create a single Malaysian race which is united and dynamic in line with the goals of Vision 2020. ”

- Ling



Malaysia has a success formula in running the country. Many foreign dignitaries have come to study this. Here, Ling is introduced to a visiting foreign head of government.



"Welcome to Malaysia." Greeting the Chairman of the People's Republic of China, Jiang Zemin, on his official visit to Malaysia in 1995.



Ling was awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of May, Argentina's highest award, in appreciation of his role in establishing ties between the two countries.



At a nation building exhibition jointly organised by MCA and other Chinese youth bodies, Ling is seen explaining to the Prime Minister Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, the contribution of the Chinese to nation building. The exhibition was officially opened by the Prime Minister.



Ling greeting the first Malaysian Prime Minister, the late Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra al-Haj. Ling has deep respect for the nation's past leaders and greatly appreciates their contribution to the country.



Swearing in as Deputy Minister of Information before the Agong on 31 December 1977.



A full day for Ling as Deputy Finance Minister in early 1984.

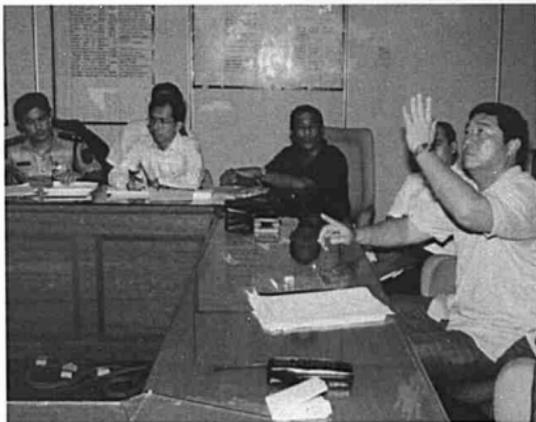


Ling was re-elected as the president of MCA with a very convincing majority in 1993.



The Prime Minister Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, the Deputy Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Ling, being the three most senior Barisan Nasional (or National Front) leaders, always work hand in hand to ensure the unity of the multi-racial Malaysian society through the spirit of consultation, tolerance and respect for each other. This has made Malaysia a much respected country that Malaysians can be proud of.

A very firm and determined statesman who puts the nation's interest above self-interest.



Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir and Ling exchanging ideas on enhancing national unity.



Ling, a minister who has great patience, is ever willing to explain policies and keep the nation informed of developments within his portfolio.





"When you work with your hands you are a worker, when you work with your hands and your brains you are an artisan. But when you work with your hands, brains and heart you are an artist." Ling always reminds himself about this leadership quality.



A tireless leader always on the move – that's the impression many people have of Ling.



In spite of his many duties, Ling always finds time to meet the common folk and listen to their problems.

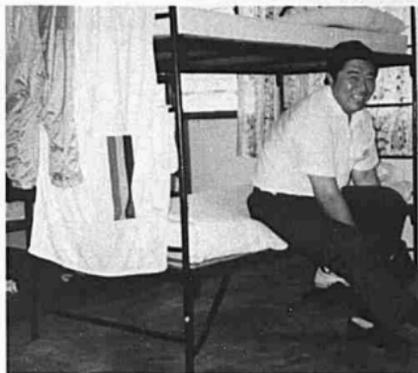


Having a chat with respected Buddhist monk Dr. K. Sri Dhammananda at the Brickfields Buddhist Temple.

In 1985, when Ling was the Deputy Education Minister, he made a visit to the hospital where he left a gift for a four-month-old child who was abandoned by her parents. Unfortunately, Indrani was sound asleep and did not get to meet the caring statesman.



Ling never fails to perform his duty as a filial son, visiting his parents' and grandparents' graves during the Cheng Beng season.



Ling believes in constant learning and self-improvement. Here, he is seen at a leadership training camp.



The family is never forgotten. Ling brought his lovely wife Ena along on one of his out-of-town visits and surprised her with an anniversary celebration.



Respect for the elders is a value that is deeply rooted in Ling.



Ling pulls out his chair on his first day of work as a full Cabinet minister in the Transport Ministry on 7 January 1986.



THE MINISTER

"Nice guys may often seem to finish last, but they are actually running in a different race from the rest."



Ling Liong Sik's career as a member of administration started in 1976 when he was appointed parliamentary secretary. After several other appointments as deputy minister, he was made a full Cabinet minister in January 1986 when he became the Minister of Transport.

In serving the nation, there have been many instances when he had come to crossroads and important decisions had to be made. It is during these moments that Ling's inner strength shines through. Many in his position would have been impulsive or reactionary to gain publicity or popularity. But Ling has never been known to capitalise on a situation. He prefers to think the situation through before drawing any conclusions. He prefers to find solutions fast rather than put the blame on others and run away from



responsibility. He prefers to get to the root of the problem - a more tedious and difficult process no doubt, but definitely more effective. This has earned him a strong sense of respect among his peers as well as his subordinates. And here again, he puts principle above popularity, and his will to get work done is as strong as iron.





An important factor to Malaysia's economy is the transport connection between the country and other parts of the world. Here, Lang plays a vital role, tirelessly travelling to various countries to negotiate landing rights and air service agreements. In this respect, he has done a great job and successfully opened up many countries for Malaysia Airlines flights. This has not only built business ties but also brought in millions of tourists, further enhancing the economy of the country.



Ling travels to more countries to negotiate for more landing rights with various countries.



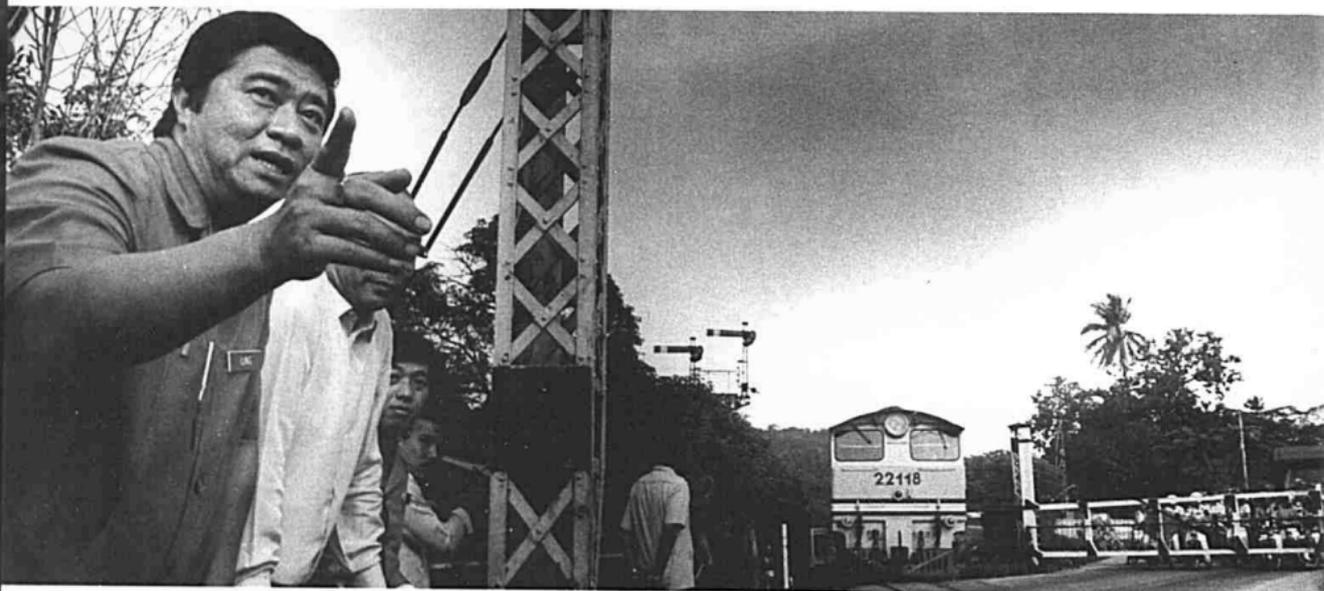


As Transport Minister, Ling personally supervises operations of port and container terminals to ensure that Malaysian ports are competitive enough to bring economic benefit to the country.



He also travels extensively to gain more ideas on improving port facilities and establishing more shipping ties with other parts of the world.





Ling inspects a railway gate crossing. He always gets down to the ground to understand the people's problems, especially those related to his ministry.



Boarding a new locomotive acquired by Malayan Railway (KTM).



Here, he finds out first-hand the problems faced by a lorry driver.



Giving a speech at the blessing ceremony of a new Malaysia Airlines Boeing 747-400 Combi.



Ling officiates at the blessing ceremony of the Fokker 50 on 15 September 1989.



Getting the feel of a train ride.



Accompanying the Prime Minister on an official visit to France.



Trying his hand at turning a rudder during an exhibition.



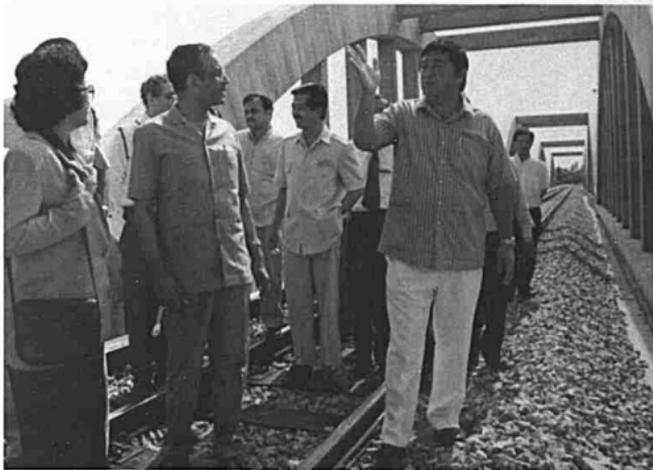
Ling examines an overhead railway bridge.



He is often seen at development sites such as this – the Light Rail Transport (LRT) System Ampang Depot and its Puduraya station.



He was accorded a VIP welcome as a guest of the Mauritius government.



Here, he is briefed on work on a railway bridge at Bangi.

Getting the feel of a Proton car.





Caring for the safety of the people. Here, Ling puts a sticker on a motorcyclist's helmet as part of a road safety campaign.



Taxi drivers were touched by Ling's efforts in raising funds to expand TAR College and organised a big-scale charity drive. Ling joined them by officially launching the charity drive, then entered one of the taxis which took him to his weekly meeting at the Prime Minister's Department. The ride cost him RM1,000.



Ling tries his hand at operating an excavator.



Ling fulfilled the hope of the islanders of Pulau Ketam with the construction of a new jetty. For more than half a century, the islanders were risking their lives climbing up and down a wooden platform to board and unboard ferries, and load and unload goods. A proper jetty was just a dream. This dream came true when Ling, in his office as Transport Minister, decided to build a jetty there. The islanders gave him an overwhelming welcome when he came to inspect the new jetty.



As the Transport Minister he is always concerned about and takes a personal interest in all activities under his portfolio.



Getting an update on the progress of KTM's double-tracking project near the Salak South station.

As MCA President, Ling has strong determination in serving the country, community and the people as well as he can. He believes in moderation but he is firm and holds on to strong principles in handling issues concerning the community.





THE LEADER

"We are no less Chinese but more Malaysian."



Ling was the first MCA President to lead a delegation of high-powered MCA leaders to reach out to Chinese community leaders at a dialogue session held at the Selangor Chinese Assembly Hall. Various issues concerning the Chinese community were discussed. As a President who believes in the pro-active approach, Ling takes the initiative to reach out rather than sit tight in his office and let things happen.



How a man responds to the needs around him says a lot about his character. Ling wastes no time grumbling, complaining or criticising. His style is to roll up his sleeves and get down to doing something about it - even if it means getting his hands soiled in the process. This is especially true in the effort he put into improving education facilities around the country. The Langkawi Project has brought hope to the poor and rural. He has also put in untiring effort in raising funds to expand TAR College, the premier tertiary college especially for non-Bumiputera students. As the President of the MCA, he takes personal interest in these projects and visits the branches, schools and resource centres

regularly to ensure that things are in order.

As a leader of the Chinese community, too, Ling strives on in the interest of the people. To ensure that the Chinese culture and language are preserved, that their legitimate rights are protected, that they continue to have a fair place in the country - these are his objectives. Not one for open confrontation, Ling prefers working together with the government to see these objectives fulfilled. And as a true Malaysian leader, he wants to see the country united and strong.

Ling knows that planting a seed today will not bring a harvest tomorrow. But with a will of iron, he labours on - for the good of future generations.

Quote: "We are no less Chinese
but more Malaysian."

- Ling





Ling visits a Chinese temple.



He greets well-wishers at a Chinese New Year open house.

華團代表對話



In a dialogue with Chinese community leaders, Lang stressed the point that the Malaysian Chinese are no less Chinese but more Malaysian.



Leading a lantern procession in 1993.



He officiates an MCA cultural show in Klang.



Ling is greeted by a lion dance.

Ling stresses the importance of a unified Barisan-led government in a multiracial society and appreciates the vast achievements realised by the nation under the coalition since independence.

"Although Malaysian society is a multicultural and religious one, this diversity has emerged as a source of strength for the country and not an obstacle to progress."



Leadership by example. Ling encourages the youth to come forward and donate blood by doing it himself.



Ling recognises the importance of the women's role in nation building.



He is a firm believer that the freedom of religious worship is especially important in a multiracial society like Malaysia.



Ling is a leader who enjoys the support of people of different races.



He has a keen appreciation for Chinese paintings.



A leader who is a familiar figure among the grassroots. Here, at the Bukit Mertajam market, he meets the stallholders.



Showing his fatherly concern for a little boy.



Ling getting a feel of the work of a fish farmer.



Being greeted by the 'god of prosperity' at a Chinese New Year celebration.



Ling presents the auspicious 'Fu Lu Shou' figurines to an 88-year-old man at a 'Filial Piety' fund-raising dinner.



Promoting Chinese culture - the champion of a lantern-making competition showing his masterpiece to Ling.



Trying out a Chinese drum at a National Drum Beating Contest.

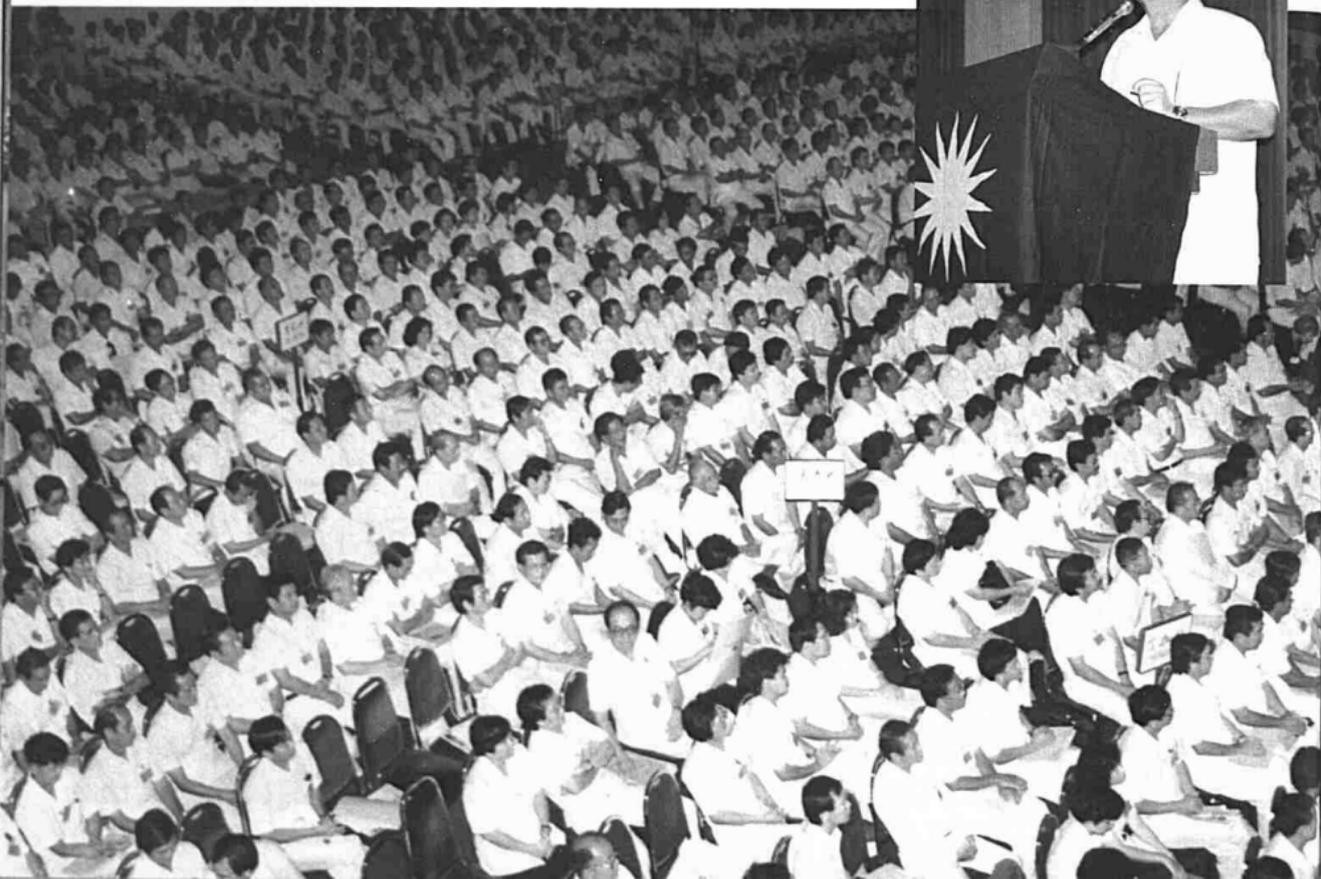


Ling watches as Deputy Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim tries his hand at Chinese calligraphy. The Deputy Prime Minister's handicraft reads: "We are one family."

Receiving a scroll from an MCA grass-root leader from Tanjung Karang in appreciation of his capable leadership and contribution to the nation.



Ling giving his presidential keynote address at an MCA General Assembly.





Exercising his voting right in an MCA party election.



Inspecting a guard of honour formed by the MCA Youth.



Ling inspects a guard of honour formed by the Wanita MCA.



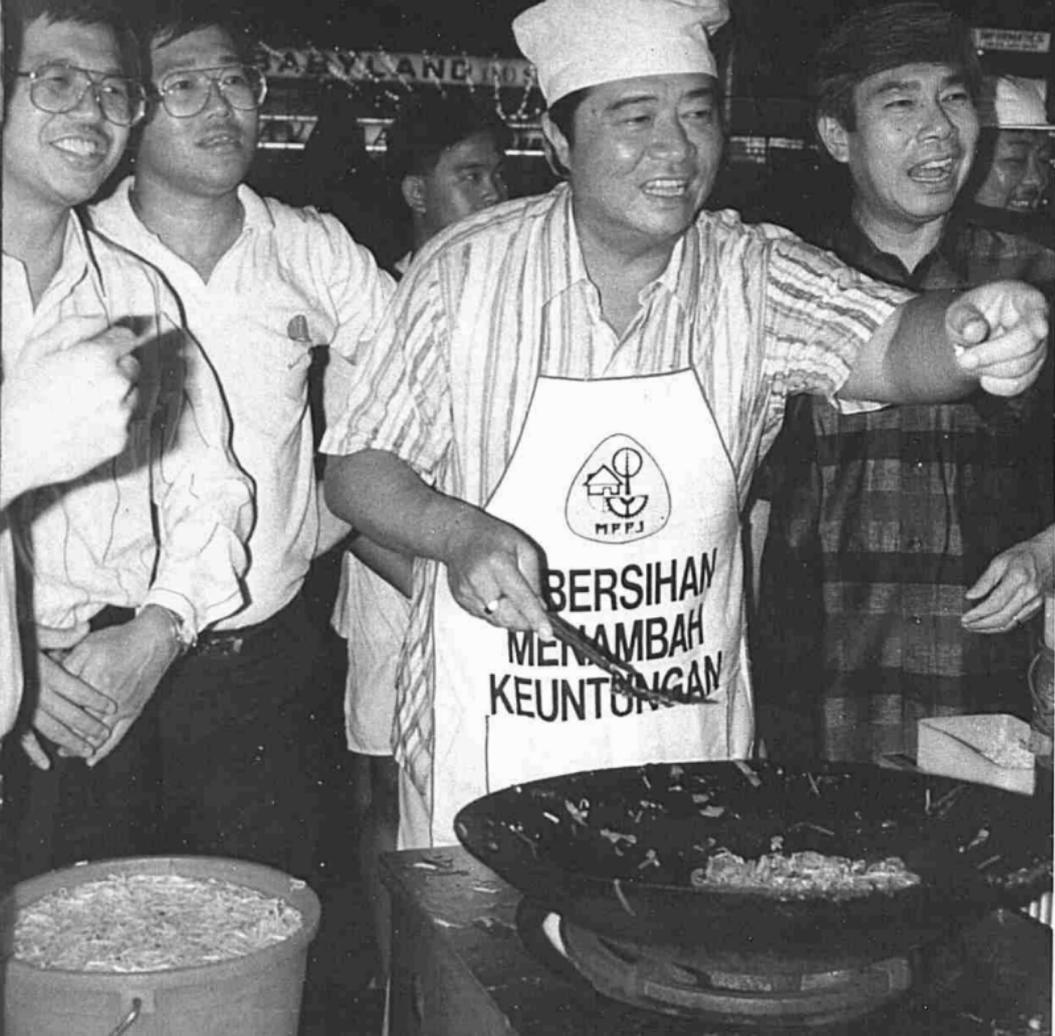
A president well-respected by the Chinese youth, he was besieged by autograph seekers after officiating the TAR College Torch Run to raise funds for TAR College.



Ling is a leader who cares for the well-being of people from all walks of life.



As a leader Ling is never too busy to listen to the views of others.



Kway teow anyone? Ling takes on the role of a *kway teow* man to raise funds – the only leader who reaches out to hawkers. A donor was so moved by Ling's sincere gesture that he paid RM10,000 for a plate of *char kway teow* fried by him. The money went to the TAR College development fund.



Serving up a cup at a coffee shop during a fund-raising campaign.



Browsing through some reading and reference materials at a Langkawi Project resource centre set up for residents of the area



Ling pays close and personal attention to the development of Chinese primary schools in the country and visits them frequently.

THE EDUCATIONIST

"Lighting one candle does a lot more good than sitting and complaining about the darkness."



As part of his effort to promote an awareness campaign on education, Ling travels throughout the country visiting pupils from poor families. Here, he strikes up a conversation with some pupils, at the same time gauging their command of English and Bahasa Malaysia.



Taxi drivers, touched by Ling's effort, did their bit by joining the MCA in promoting education awareness. They organised a whole day charity drive officiated by Ling to raise funds for TAR College.



Ling takes great interest in the development of Chinese language education in Malaysia. Here, he enters the hall of Buan Cheng Secondary School, bringing along a RM100,000 cheque from MCA for the school building fund.



Under the Langkawi Project, 20 students from the Labis district received a schoolbag, a set of uniforms, a monthly allowance of RM20 and free books for three years.



Some *mamak* (Indian Muslim) stallholders also participated in raising funds for TAR College. Ling presented them with certificates of appreciation.



Great effort was put in by Ling to promote awareness among parents of the importance of their children's education.



Performing the ground breaking ceremony at the site of a new Langkawi Project resource centre.



Ling received the certificate for the honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Campbell University on 9 October 1993 at the TAR College convocation.



Ena Ling adjusting her husband's attire before he received his doctorate.



Checking on progress – Ling looking through Samsoriati Bakhtiar's examination papers while S. Sathiwathy looks on.



The SRJK (C) Naam Kheung students give Ling a warm welcome when he arrives to launch the Vision Screening and the Presentation of Free Spectacles to Primary School Pupils Programme under the Langkawi Project.



Ling meets a young computer wizard when he visits an MCA resource centre.



In a tour around the country to reach out to the less fortunate, Ling and his wife take an interest in a stuffed toy made by a handicapped woman at the Daybreak Centre.



Presenting a scroll to a
TAR College graduate.



Ling giving his keynote address at a TAR College convocation.

TAR COLLEGE – Triumph Amidst Trials

In the 1960's, places in local universities were very limited and hotly vied for. And very few could afford an overseas education. Something had to be done for school-leavers to give them the opportunity to realise their potential. Thus, the MCA set up TAR College. Initially, only A-level courses were available, but the curriculum soon expanded to include professional fields. There were, however, many obstacles to overcome. The College was in dire need of finances. At the same time, its diploma was not recognised by the government. In spite of this, enrolment

increased each year reflecting the needs of school-leavers. Ling, as the MCA President and Council Chairman of the College, went into action, and a total of 25 million ringgit was raised. Also, with persistent negotiation within the government, some of the TAR College diplomas received deserved recognition. To show its endorsement of the College, the government even pledged a ringgit-for-ringgit donation for the funds raised. Today, the College is a testimony of the grit and determination of the MCA and the capable leadership and iron will of Ling.





With Ling's personal touch, donations poured in from all quarters for the TAR College expansion funds.



Ling not only raised funds to expand TAR College, he also takes a personal interest in the welfare of the students, visiting them from time to time to know the actual condition of campus life.



Saturday, 30th May 1992
Saujana Golf & Country Club

IN AID OF THE TAR COLLEGE TRUST FUND



Fund-raising activities for TAR College expansion programme took him around the country. Under his leadership which was solidly supported by all MCA members and prominent business entrepreneurs, he successfully raised 25 million ringgit. With the expansion, TAR College will be able to double its intake from the present enrolment of 8,000 to 16,000.



He gives morale support to TAR College students by taking an active part in their fund-raising activities.



Ling telling a story to a bright boy from a poor family.



Ling unveiling the Langkawi Project logo at its launch on 22 February 1993.

THE LANGKAWI PROJECT - No Longer Just A Dream.

In the many trips he has made around the country in his offices as minister and party leader, Ling Liong Sik came across many rural families whose future seemed dim for the lack of opportunity. Mostly farmers or fishermen, these people had little thought for education and schooling was low on their priority list. They were only concerned about the needs of the day. Touched by their plight, Ling began to formulate a plan. He was determined to help them work towards a brighter future - starting with the education of their children. In 1993, Ling's

nationwide education awareness programme, the Langkawi Project was launched. Resource Centres were set up in remote areas to equip residents with books and other reading materials. Posters were put up with simple guidelines to help parents take an active part in their children's education, urging them to spend an hour a day with their children on their school work. The results - better academic achievement in the rural areas and better chances for a brighter future. Ling had a dream - and the will to make it come true.



Ling shaking hands with Yap Hoi Yee, a standard four pupil adopted under the Langkawi Project.



Giving encouragement to Seremban Chung Hwa Secondary School students.

Published by

Pelanduk Publications (M) Sdn. Bhd.,

24 Jalan 20/16A, 46400 Petaling Jaya,
Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia

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Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia Cataloguing in Publication Data

Will of Iron

ISBN 967-978556-X

1. Ling, Liong Sik, Dato' Seri, 1943- — Pictorial works
 2. Politicians—Malaysia—Biography—Pictorial works
- 924.2595

Printed by

Eagle Trading Sdn. Bhd.,

81 Jalan SS25/32, 47401 Petaling Jaya,
Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia