

# MCA's important role in stability

By Manan Osman

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — The MCA has played an important role in ensuring the nation's political stability, thus enabling the country to concentrate on development and improve the standard of living of the people, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"The MCA, which represents Chinese interests, has carried out its responsibility extremely well in the Barisan Nasional

"The sincerity and the moderate attitude of its leaders have helped the Government overcome problems faced by the country," Dr Mahathir said in his message in the MCA's magazine, which was published

in conjunction with the party's 45th anniversary celebration.

According to the Prime Minister, this had enabled the country to continue enjoying political stability and peace while, at the same time, undergoing rapid development.

He said that as a multi-racial country, it was important that unity be given priority as only then would the country prosper and progress at a much rapid pace in all fields.

This would also enable the country to achieve Vision 2020 in a shorter time, he added.

He hoped that under the leadership of its president, Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, the party would contin-

ue to progress and this could further strengthen the BN.

Dr Ling, who launched the magazine at Wisma MCA today, said the party had entered a new era where members were more co-operative, disciplined and mature.

He said it also enjoyed a better relationship with other component parties while its members had managed to foster closer relations with other communities.

Dr Ling, also the Transport Minister, congratulated members for the success in strengthening the party which, he said, were the result of their discipline and commitment.

He said although the country was moving at a

rapid pace, the people should remain humble and hardworking and must strive to make Malaysia a strong and respected nation.

On the magazine, he said it gave a comprehensive account of MCA's history dating back to 1949 when the party was formed.

"It tells us important events in MCA's struggle such as helping the Chinese new villagers who faced communist threats and unfair treatment by the British in the 1940s," added Dr Ling.

The MCA Information Bureau, which was responsible for the publication, took about eight months to gather the information and carry out research on the party history before publishing it.