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Chinese reject 'unholy' pact (HL)

Chok Suat Ling; Leong Shen-li

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Delegates to the MCA's 46th annual general assembly today resolved to reject the "unholy" Opposition pact comprising the DAP, Pas, Parti Keadilan Nasional and Parti Rakyat Malaysia.

They pledged their support to the Barisan Nasional Government for its efforts to ensure political stability, harmony and economic progress.

Party members also agreed to pool their resources to work together for a two-thirds majority victory for the BN in the coming general election.

The assembly also resolved to fully support the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

This is to ensure the nation remains stable and is not jeopardised by internal or external forces.

These were among 24 resolutions which were unanimously adopted at the end of the two-day assembly.

Party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik reinforced this message at a Press conference at the end of the assembly where he urged members to close ranks and focus on the polls.

"Now that the party election is over, it must be pushed aside. We should now close ranks and focus on the coming general election."

He said members should now see the DAP as their main opponent. "From now on, all guns and cannons should be facing outwards, not inwards."

"I am very confused by the DAP because while they talk about democracy, there is obviously no democracy, freedom or justice within the party," he said.

Asked whether members were ready to face the general election, Dr Ling said the fact that the party allowed 25 candidates of the central committee to be elected unopposed showed that there was strong solidarity within the party.

"The members have sent a signal of hope to everyone asking them to recognise the cohesiveness and solidarity of the party," he said.

In view of the success in consolidating the party, delegates also pledged their support for Dr Ling and deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek to continue leading the party.

Other resolutions included:

- * further strengthening the party by boosting its membership to one million by next year with Wanita members accounting for half of the total membership;

- * supporting Dr Ling's call to have more Wanita members holding party posts and to play a more active role in fighting for women's rights;

- * urging the Government to expedite the processing of applications for various small- and medium-scale industry funds, and to strengthen assistance programmes for SMIs in recognition of the Government's measures to revive the economy;

- * urging the police to tackle social problems such as secret society activities in schools;

- * pledging their support for the establishment of the Second National Economic Consultative Council, and stressing the importance of information technology and e-commerce; and,

- * urging the authorities to give more opportunities to non-Bumiputera students to pursue courses at public universities in keeping with the Government's promotion of education and computer literacy in schools.

They also called on the Government to draw up a plan to overcome problems in Chinese primary schools, including the shortage of teachers, and to incorporate Chinese national-type schools into the Smart school programme.

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