

MCA GETS STAR 2001 VARSITY

By FOONG PEK YEE, KULDEEP S.JESSY
and CHRISTINA KOH

IPOH: It was a historic moment for the MCA yesterday when party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik announced the Government had approved the setting up of Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman.

Dr Ling, who made the announcement at the opening of the Perak MCA annual general meeting, said the Government had, in principle, approved MCA's request to establish Utar.

He said he had received a letter from Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad inviting the MCA to set up the university, which he added was the culmination of the MCA's 30-year-old dream to have the institute of higher learning.

His announcement was greeted by standing ovation from party central leaders and delegates.

However, party deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek and vice-presidents Datuk Chua Jui Meng and Datuk Chan Kong Choy remained seated.

Dr Ling said the next one to two months would see intensive discussions with the ministry on the details of Utar, adding that plans and programmes would be submitted to the ministry for approval.

"Once we (MCA) get the final approval, we will have intensive discussions within and outside the party.

"I want to widen the scope of discussion as much as possible, and details of the development (of the establishment of Utar) will be announced as we go on.

"I will say that we can get a more accurate picture by the end of the year," Dr Ling, who is also Transport Minister, told reporters after

the meeting.

"I would like to thank Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, (Tan Sri) Musa and Deputy Education Minister Datuk Hon Choon Kim.

"This is a 30-year-old dream come true and historic moment for MCA," he said.

Dr Ling said Utar would be open to all races, adding that the courses to be offered would be relevant to the needs and demands of the nation.

"MCA has the capability, knowledge and experience to run the university well," he said, adding that the party's 32-year-old Tunku Abdul Rahman College was a prime example.

The university would be a new entity and not an upgrading of TARC, which was set up in 1969 with 764 students.

TARC, whose main campus is in Kuala Lumpur with branch campuses in Penang, Johor,

● TURN TO PAGE 4

~~STAR~~ 9 JUL 2003
Ting: Dream
come true for
MCA and
community

● FROM PAGE ONE

Perak and Pahang, has had more than 100,000 students.

"We (MCA) must be united to have the strength to make our dream (setting up of Utar) a reality," he said, adding that he drew strength and inspiration from past leaders who made TARC a reality.

MCA secretary-general Datuk Seri Dr Ting Chew Peh, also the party's national education bureau chairman, said: "We (MCA) are very happy and we will do our best to come up with the university."

He said the bureau would help to establish the university in the shortest possible time.

"It is a dream come true for MCA and the Chinese community," he said.

Lim said the approval of the university would benefit the Chinese community as it meant more places and hence more opportunities for students.

"Students will have another avenue to further their studies," he said.