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Ling: Company to run varsity

KUALA TERENGGANU, Fri. - Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, which has been approved by the Government, will be sponsored and managed by a company which will be set up soon.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today the company, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman Sdn Bhd, would be the main sponsor.

The MCA would not be involved in sponsoring Utar "but would merely help out in the project", he said after opening the Terengganu MCA annual general meeting here.

Dr Ling said this when asked to comment on Pas' contention that a political party should not be involved in sponsoring an education project.

The MCA president said Pas was practising double standards as it was also involved in setting up colleges and kindergartens and no one had ever condemned Pas for this.

Dr Ling said Pas should follow the move by its fellow member in the opposition front, DAP, which had expressed support for Utar as the new university was for all races.

He said following the approval given by the Government, the biggest challenge facing the MCA was to build Utar and in this respect several proposals had been made.

In Kota Baru, MCA vice-president Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn today called on Pas leaders of Chinese origin to state their stand on their party's objection to the setting up of the Tunku Abdul Rahman University.

"If they are against the setting up of the university, tell us why," he said.

DAP too, he added, should also explain why its partners in the opposition were objecting to the setting up of the university.

Fong, who is also State MCA liaison chief, said this in response to Pas' objection to the setting up of the Tunku Abdul Rahman University by MCA.

Speaking to reporters after the Kelantan MCA delegates' meeting at the State Chinese Assembly Hall, he said: "The approval (for MCA to set up TAR University) given by the Government reflects Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's sensitivity to the needs of the Chinese community."

He said the setting up of the university would help overcome shortage of universities and places to pursue higher education in the country.

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