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Party to seek varsity status for TAR College

reports on "MCA Anniversary Celebrations 2001" by Chow Kum Hor
THE MCA will push for its Tunku Abdul Rahman (TAR) College to be upgraded to a university, party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said.

TAR College has come of age and by upgrading it to university status, students there will be able to get their degrees locally and thus save on foreign exchange.

"The college has grown from a small entity to an institution which has five campuses and it has the expertise equivalent to a university.

"This is why we want TAR college accorded university status," Dr Ling said.

He would be meeting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad to discuss the matter.

At present, students have to go overseas under the college's twinning programme with foreign universities to get their degrees.

Asked whether the application for an upgrade was made following criticism at MCA's handling of several education issues, including Vision School and the relocation of SJK (C) Damansara, Dr Ling said it had nothing to do with it.

In October 1999, Dr Ling had said MCA would not be seeking university status for the college as the country still needed a lot of diploma holders.

Set up in the late 1960s, TAR College now has an enrolment of 29,000 students.

It has produced 90,000 graduates so far.

Courses offered by the college include information technology, engineering, accountancy and business administration.

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