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Dr Ling: Voices calling for members to close ranks growing stronger

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said the voice of the grassroots calling on members to close ranks and set all differences aside was growing increasingly strong.

He said unlike previous general assemblies where speakers often used the debates to launch personal attacks at other members, most speakers this year echoed the call for greater unity in the party.

"I am also glad that the assembly has unanimously endorsed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's peace plan," he said after the MCA's 49th annual general assembly at Dewan San Choon in Wisma MCA.

He said during the debates, there were also new ideas mooted by delegates on how to improve discipline among members.

Dr Ling said some of the suggestions were good and he would study and suggest them to the party's central committee.

He said party members were proud that the MCA-run Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (Utar) had progressed so well and was benefiting students of all races.

"Building the almost RM1 billion seven-storey Utar complex in Setapak to accommodate its growing needs will be the party's biggest challenge in the coming years," he added.

Upon completion, the new multi-purpose Utar Complex will, among others, consist of four lecture halls, 16 lecture rooms and a three-storey library and resource centre.

On MCA's stand on the teaching of Science and Mathematics in English in phases from next year, Dr Ling said the party understood the importance of the language and was confident the Government would look into all aspects of its implementation.

"We support the move as this will help improve the overall standard of English," he said.

On the poor attendance of delegates after the lunch break, Dr Ling said party leaders would look into ways to overcome the problem.

A total of 2,288 delegates attended the assembly in the morning, but there were only about 500 after the lunch break.