

10 MAR 2002

Chan-party

MIGRATION OF BN COMPONENT PARTY MEMBERS NOT ENCOURAGED, SAYS MCA VP

KUALA LUMPUR, March 10 (Bernama) -- Migration of Barisan Nasional (BN) component party members is not encouraged, said MCA vice-president Datuk Chan Kong Choy today.

"According to BN tradition, we do not encourage migration from one party to another especially within the BN. This is something that we certainly do not encourage," he told reporters after opening the 7th general meeting of the Selayang Bahagia Utama Umno Branch here.

Chan, who is also the Member of Parliament for Selayang and Deputy Finance Minister, said frustration among party members could be one reason for such migration.

If party leaders were more caring, all problems faced by people in their respective areas could be overcome, he said.

"As leaders, we should not neglect problems faced by the people. We should a problem as not important and leave it to the branch to tackle," he said.

Earlier in his speech, he said the tradition of inviting a leader from another party to open a general meeting of a BN component party reflected a close cooperation and understanding among party members.

The tradition was started by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who frequently opened MCA annual general meetings, he said.

He said the close ties among BN component parties were necessary to further strengthen nation-building efforts.

"When we can practice tradition such as this, it means that there are close ties among BN component parties and I hope this tradition could be expanded to all levels of the party," he said.

-- BERNAMA

FA RV ABG