

Ling likely to focus on unity at anniversary speech

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THE theme for MCA's 54 anniversary this year will focus on party unity and the successful establishment of Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman.

In an exclusive interview with MCA secretary-general Datuk Seri Ting Chew Peh, *Nanyang Siang Pau* reported yesterday that the anniversary celebration will be held on March 2 at the Johor Baru City Hall.

The daily reported Ting as saying that he believes the theme of MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik's speech for the event will stress on the importance of party unity, especially in light of the present rift



among its leaders.

Ting also said Ling will touch on party discipline and democracy.

"MCA's spirit of unity is not like before.

"We called each other brothers in the past. This kind of tolerant atmosphere does not exist now," he said.

"Some leaders even hatch their own schemes, making relationships (in the party) extremely bad."

Although it has been more than six months after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad came up with a formula for a peaceful end between the two sides, trouble has again broken out within the party.

"On the surface, we have implemented this peace formula.

"However, turbulence still exist within the party," he admitted.

Ting said this will be the first time MCA will hold its party celebrations in Johor.

He expects 6,000 MCA members to attend the event which will begin at 9pm, *Nanyang* said.