

# Big turnout expected at MCA meeting

STAR- 9 AUG 2003

BY FOONC PEK YEE  
AND CELESTE FONC

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The MCA 50th annual general assembly tomorrow is expected to see a turnout of over 2,000 central delegates, 11 party veterans and over 20 Barisan Nasional component party leaders.

Party secretary-general Tan Sri Dr Ting Chew Peh said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would officially launch the event, which would also be attended by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Preparations for the AGM was smooth-going and the one-day event, which would kick off at Wisma MCA here, was expected to be a smooth affair, Dr Ting told reporters at the party headquarters here yesterday.

He said the highlight of the event would be the speeches by Dr Mahathir and MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting, and the proposed amendments to the party constitution to limit the tenure of president and Youth and Wanita chiefs to a maxi-

imum of nine years.

Dr Ting said the party constitution provided for the voting on the proposal to be conducted by a show of hands.

Secret balloting would only be conducted if one-third of the delegates present requested for it, he explained.

Dr Ting said there would be a resolution to pledge full support for Ong and deputy president Datuk Chan Kong Choy and record the party's gratitude to former president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and former deputy president Datuk Seri Lim Ah Lek for their services.

There will also be a resolution to record the party's gratitude to Dr Mahathir, who is scheduled to step down at the end of October, for his services and contributions to the people and nation, and also to pledge the party's full support for Abdullah to succeed him.

Dr Ting said that among the veterans who had confirmed their attendance were honorary life presidents Tan Sri Lee San Choon and Dr Ling and former acting president Datuk Dr Neo Yee Pan.

Others included Lim. Datuk Tan Cheng Swee, Datuk Wong Seng Chow, Datuk Lew Sip Hon, Datuk Seri Kee Yong Wee, Woon See Chin and Datuk Dr Tan Thiong Hong.

As for the Youth and Wanita assemblies, proposed amendments to limit the tenure of the Youth and Wanita chiefs to a maximum of nine years is set to take centre-stage today.

The Youth 40th AGM at the Crown Princess Hotel and Wanita 28th ACM at Wisma MCA would be opened by Chan and Dr Ting respectively.

Wanita MCA chairman Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen said a proposed amendment to Wanita bylaws to increase the number of elected central committee members to 25 and appointed central committee members to eight would also be tabled at the ACM. There are currently 15 elected members and four appointed ones.

Youth joint secretaries-general Liow Tiong Lai and Loh Seng Kok said party unity would be a popular topic in the debate.