

MCA to honour Dr M and Pak Lah

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Chinese community will hold two mammoth gatherings - one to pay tribute to former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the other to welcome and pledge full support for newly sworn in Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

An MCA presidential meeting chaired by president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting decided this yesterday.

MCA secretary-general Tan Sri Dr Ting Chew Peh said the gathering for Dr Mahathir - to be held on Feb 1 next year - would be jointly organised by the MCA and the Chinese

guilds and associations.

The gathering for Abdullah, he added, would be jointly organised by the MCA and Barisan Nasional Chinese based parties - Gerakan, LDP, SAPP and SUPP.

"We are still waiting for a date from the Prime Minister as to when to hold the gathering," Dr Ting said after attending the council meeting at the Parliament House here.

Dr Ting also said MCA and Chinese guilds and umbrella organisations such as the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Malaysia and Federation of Chinese Organisations in Malaysia would have a dialogue here tomorrow to

discuss problems faced by the community and ways to resolve them.

He said the last dialogue was about three years ago.

Dr Ting said the Chinese education group, Dong Jiao Zong, would not attend the dialogue.

Dr Ting, who is also head of the MCA education bureau, said he and Deputy Education Minister Datuk Hon Choon Kim would meet with this group in other meetings, adding that this arrangement had been ongoing.

Dr Ting said the council also discussed MCA's 55th anniversary celebrations next year, adding that it might be held in Perak or Penang.

MCA was formed on Feb 27, 1949.