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MCA-Gerakan

MCA IN "NEW CHAPTER OF RELATIONSHIP" WITH GERAKAN

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 10 (Bernama) -- The MCA today pledged to work closely with Gerakan in a "new chapter of cooperation and relation", said party president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting.

He said there was a lot of things that the two parties could work out for their mutual interest especially on issues related to the Chinese community and country.

"The past is history for us and I hope a new chapter of relationship would emerge from now on," he told reporters after the opening of the 50th MCA Annual General Assembly here today.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is the Barisan Nasional chairman, opened the one-day assembly, attended by more than 2,000 delegates at Dewan San Choon, Wisma MCA here.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and leaders of the other BN component parties were also present.

Ong was asked to comment on Dr Mahathir's speech that the MCA, as an elder brother to the younger BN component parties, should work closely with them to prepare for the next general election.

The prime minister's remarks caught the attention of the delegates as Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik had recently said MCA was like the elder brother to Gerakan and called both parties to work together for the country's interests.

Meanwhile, Gerakan deputy president Datuk Kerk Choo Ting said as the "younger brother", Gerakan had been very cooperative all this while and the party would like the existing cooperation to be further enhanced and cemented.

"Our relationship has not been actually close and we welcome the true cooperation between the MCA and Gerakan for the next general election," he told reporters after the opening of the MCA general assembly.

Gerakan vice-president Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said he was confident that the two parties can look forward for the better cooperation to face the general election.

He said it was quite normal for the political parties to have their differences but the important thing was that they should be able to cooperate within the BN spirit.

"Everybody have their own differences and agreement and this has been our experiences all this while," said Dr Koh, who is the Penang Chief Minister.

-- BERNAMA

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