

10 AUG 2003

MCA-Ong (Wth pix)

POOL RESOURCES TO FACE GLOBALISATION, SAYS MCA CHIEF

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 10 (Bernama) -- Malaysians must pool their resources to help the country face globalisation, which is rapidly changing the world economic landscape, MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said today.

Speaking at the 50th MCA Annual General Assembly here, he said new and effective strategies were needed in the competitive borderless economy.

"An action plan can also study how the different races can share their resources and knowledge to overcome the challenges of globalisation and the impact of China, which is emerging as a world economic giant," he said.

"Malaysian Chinese with their edge in mastering various languages and understanding some tradition and culture of (mainland) China must use this to penetrate the Chinese markets and lure more Chinese investors to this country," said Ong.

The assembly was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman.

He said cooperation between the Chinese and Muslim communities in this country was a powerful asset to help entrepreneurs venture into China, where there is a large Muslim population and great trade potential.

He also said terrorism should be opposed strongly as it was becoming a serious threat to global peace and regional economies.

"Now the world is not safe because terrorists can launch attacks anywhere which can destroy innocent lives and valuable properties," he said.

However, he said the world should identify the root causes of terrorism and failure to take serious action would allow terrorism to flourish.

"Terrorism is not related to any (particular) religion or race, but it is due more to oppression, marginalisation, injustices and retaliation by groups which are considered weak and marginalised."

The United States-led invasion of Iraq had impinged on the sovereignty of a nation and international laws and could spur terrorist attacks in the world, he said.

"Because of this, western countries which are considered more powerful should respect the sovereignty of the small nations," he said.

Ong said the multi-ethnic peace-loving Malaysians and their leaders were playing an active role to preserve world harmony.

Their responses were evident during the Peace Malaysia campaigns held early this year.

He said the Chinese community also strongly opposed any form of terrorism and fully supported campaigns against such crimes.

"More than 800 influential Chinese associations and more than 230,000 Chinese people signed the peace memorandum," he said.

-- BERNAMA

VP AZZ YBY