

31 DEC 2003

MCA-Message

STAND BY PM IN FACING CHALLENGES, MCA PRESIDENT TELLS CHINESE

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 31 (Bernma) -- MCA President Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting has urged the Chinese community to continue standing by the Prime Minister in facing the various challenges and give full support to his leadership.

He said the Chinese must also support Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in his fight against corruption and in improving the Government's efficiency.

Ong, who is also the Minister of Housing and Local Government, said the MCA would work hard in forging closer relationship and also in increasing cooperation among all Chinese-based associations and the Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties in programmes which benefited the country and people.

"We also want to garner the strength of the Chinese community in playing a positive role in the nation's development," he said in his New Year message here today.

He said Malaysians were lucky to be blessed with good leadership under BN which ensured that the country enjoyed continued peace and stability apart from a sound economy.

He said 2003 was a historic year not only for the Chinese community but also for the country when the three largest Chinese organisations saw a change in leadership. They were the MCA, the Federation of Chinese Guilds and Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industries of Malaysia.

. Most important of all was the change of Malaysia's leadership from Tun Dr Mahathir to Abdullah.

He said the MCA was confident that under the new Prime Minister, the BN Government would continue to implement a moderate, liberal and people-friendly policy.

Meanwhile, DAP Secretary General and Member of Parliament for Kota Melaka Kerk Kim Hock, in his message, expressed hope that the Prime Minister would be able to implement policy changes which were compatible with the principles of democracy, justice and equality.

-- BERNAMA

SNS MFJ RBZ SRI