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Chinese leaders pledge support

Chow Kum Hor

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Chinese community leaders representing about 4,000 non-governmental organisations tonight pledged support for Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The representatives of the Federation of Chinese Association of Malaysia (FeCAM), Associated Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Malaysia (ACCCIM) and several guilds also expressed confidence that the Prime Minister would take care of the community's welfare.

The pledge was one of two resolutions passed at a dialogue between the MCA and the NGOs - the first after more than three years.

The meeting, which saw participation by nearly 120 people, was chaired by MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting and attended by MCA central committee members, and MCA Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries.

FeCAM was represented by its president Datuk Seri Lim Gait Tong, ACCCIM by Tan Sri William Cheng (president) and Datuk Tong Yoke Kim represented the seven major national-level dialect associations.

FeCAM is the umbrella body for Chinese associations representing a wide-range of interest groups.

The ACCCIM, whose members comprise some of the key players in the country's corporate sector, represents the interests of Chinese businessmen.

"The Chinese community believes Abdullah will be open, fair and moderate in resolving issues affecting the community," Ong said after the 31-hour meeting.

The meeting also passed a resolution thanking former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his contributions in nation-building over the past 22 years.

Ong also announced that the Chinese NGOs and other Chinese-based Barisan Nasional component parties will hold a mammoth gathering on Dec 12 to welcome Abdullah.

A dinner will also be held to thank Dr Mahathir for his services on Feb 1, next year.