

11/08/2003

MCA ready to help BN win next election

MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said with unity and stability restored, the party was now prepared to help the Barisan Nasional secure victory in the next general election.

At the opening of the 50th MCA annual general assembly at the MCA headquarters in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, he said he was very grateful to former party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and former deputy president Datuk Seri Lim Ah Lek for their sacrifices in leading the party.

"They worked hard to bring the party to where it is today and under them, various projects, including the Langkawi Project and the construction of Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, were successfully carried out," he said.

Ong said he was aware the Opposition would resort to various tactics to win over voters in the next general election and the party had since taken steps to ensure all members were equipped and able to counter these tactics.

He urged all Malaysians to pool their resources to help the country face the challenges of globalisation.

He said an action plan was needed to study how the various races in the country could share resources and their experiences to face globalisation and the challenges posed by neighbouring countries such as China, which is emerging as a world economic giant.

"We should have more joint venture projects between the Chinese and Muslims in the country, especially since there is a large number of Muslims in China."

Ong also urged all Malaysians to strongly oppose terrorism as it was becoming a serious threat to global peace and regional economies.

He said world leaders should identify the root causes of terrorism.

"Terrorism is not caused by the beliefs or practices of any single race or religion but due to marginalisation, oppression, injustice and retaliation by groups considered weak and marginalised."

On the country's economy, he said it had since recovered after several setbacks, including the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), and was expected to exceed four per cent growth this year.

"There are clear positive indications like the improving counters on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange and increasing foreign investments."

"MCA fully supports all initiatives taken by the BN Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to improve the country's economy."

Ong said though MCA members were saddened that Dr Mahathir would be stepping down in October, they had full confidence in the abilities of his successor, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, and would give him their fullest co-operation and support.