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Opening a new chapter of co-operation with Gerakan

MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said the party will work closely with Gerakan in all areas possible for the benefit of the Chinese community and the country.

Describing the co-operation as a "new chapter of co-operation and relations", Ong said the party was prepared to put behind whatever differences they had with Gerakan.

He was commenting on remarks by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in his opening address that the MCA, being the second largest Barisan Nasional component, was like an abang (elder brother) to Gerakan.

Dr Mahathir, describing Gerakan as the adik (younger brother), said both parties should work together to ensure a convincing victory for the BN in the next general election.

Gerakan deputy president Datuk Kerk Choo Ting, who was among the BN leaders at the opening ceremony, said Gerakan had been co-operative all this while and was in favour of enhancing the relationship.

"We are willing and ready to work with the MCA, especially in facing the next general election," he said.

Gerakan vice-president Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, who was present, said he looked forward to greater co-operation between the two parties.

"It is normal for political parties to have some differences.

"The important thing is that they must be able to put these differences behind and work together in the BN spirit," said Koh, who is also Penang Chief Minister.