

MCA wants Kota Lama back

KOTA BARU: The MCA is all geared up to re-capture the Kota Lama state seat, the sole seat that the Barisan Nasional allocated to it in the 2004 general election.

Party president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said all efforts must be made to win it back from PAS, as only the MCA understood the plight of the Chinese in Kelantan.

He was confident that if all

party members worked together, the Barisan could win the seat, which is now held by Datuk Annuar Tan.

Ong, who is Housing and Local Government Minister, sent this message when opening the Kelantan MCA delegates' conference here yesterday.

He said the Federal Constitution was based on national unity and had helped mould a

tolerant multi-ethnic community in the country, whereas PAS practised the politics of religion, which tended to split the people.

On another matter, Ong clarified that his recent meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was over economic issues.

He said five Chinese-based educationist groups had mis-

conceived his meeting with Abdullah to be over vernacular education.

The conference later passed several resolutions, including a pledge of support for the party leadership.

It also called on the PAS-led state government to develop more low-cost housing, increase the intake of non-bumiputras into the civil service and allow more non-

bumiputras to develop land.

Kota Baru MCA division head Tan Ken Ten said the conference also requested that a senator be appointed from among members of the Kelantan MCA.

It also called for the police to beef up security in public areas, for more allocation under the 9th Malaysia Plan for Chinese vernacular schools, and a meritocracy-based intake of stu-

dents into institutions of higher learning.

There were also resolutions calling for a solution to the shortage of teachers in Chinese schools and for Kelantan to enjoy wifeless applications.

Other resolutions called for action to curb growing inflation as well as solutions to the growing unemployment and poverty in Kelantan.