

Ong: Don't politicise racial issues

BANGI: MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting yesterday condemned attempts to politicise issues that may put at risk the spirit of racial harmony and national unity.

He said such attempts would only blemish the image of the country and create unwarranted tension and mistrust among the races.

Ong, who is Housing and Local Government Minister, urged Malaysians to look at current issues and affairs with a rational mind and a scientific understanding.

They should not be easily swayed into believing statements that are untrue or only half-true, he told a crowd at the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's 27th Lantern Festival here yesterday.

Ong emphasised the importance of upholding national unity and peace in the Country, reminding Malaysians that "we are all *warga negara* Malaysia."

On the Lantern - or Mid-Autumn — Festival, Ong said it was traditionally an important day for family members to spend time together.

"The festival has always been described as 'the perfect day' for the Chinese, and the month of August in the lunar calendar is also regarded as an auspicious month," he said.

Touching on the Muslim Ramadan month, he said it has become common practice for non-Muslims to join the Muslims at *buka puasa*.