

BN spirit seen in school issue

By **FOONG PEK YEE**
and **LISA GOH**
newsdesk@thestar.com.

KUALA LUMPUR: The building of two Chinese primary schools under the Ninth Malaysia Plan shows that Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein is a far-sighted leader of all races.

In making this observation, MCA secretary-general Datuk Ong Ka Chuan said the move was further testimony of the

Barisan Nasional's way of taking care of all Malaysians.

"We will be celebrating our 50th National Day next year.

"This move is among the many things that reflect the positive Barisan spirit that has prevailed all this while," he said yesterday.

Hishammuddin announced the building of the two schools - SJK(C) Tun Tan Siew Sin in Putra Heights, Selangor, and SJK(C) Kulai 2 in Johor - on Wednesday, saying this showed that his

discussions on education matters with Barisan component party leaders had not been just rhetoric.

Describing the move as a "win-win" situation for the people and country, Ong said it was in line with the Government's focus on developing human capital and increasing the nation's competitiveness.

On the naming of one of the schools after Tun Tan Siew Sin, MCA's third president, he said it

was in recognition of the struggles and contribution's of all races in achieving independence for the country.

"This is also a very important message for the Chinese community," he added.

MCA Youth national education bureau chairman Dr Wee Ka Siong commended and thanked Hishammuddin for approving the two schools.

Meanwhile, Wanita MCA chief Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen also welcomed the move.

"The development of Chinese primary schools is a major thrust of MCA's direction and it has always been the party's position to ensure that there are sufficient schools, be they new or relocated," she said.

Selangor Wanita MCA chairman Datin Paduka Chew Mei Fun said the approval was timely as there was high demand for places in Chinese schools in densely-populated areas.