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Ong: Don't question patriotism

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'Malaysians are patriotic, some just don't show it'

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SEREMBAN: Malaysians should not question their fellow countrymen's patriotism level, said MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting.

He said people who did not openly display their patriotism should not be judged as being less patriotic.

"Some may not be good at showing this but their love for the country has no bounds," he said.

Without referring to any episode, Ong said compelling communities to accept changes against their beliefs and principles was also wrong.

It was important that Malaysians continued to be progressive in their thoughts and actions, for the benefit of all communities, he said when launching the 50th Merdeka Carnival celebrations at the SJKC Ma Hwa at the Rasah New Village here.

Ong, who was greeted by lion dancers, Indian classical musicians and a *kompang* troupe upon his arrival, said Malaysians should not

only cherish but also be proud of their uniqueness.

"We still have very strong bonds now. This unity in diversity has been a beacon of our friendship for the past 50 years," he said.

Ong said Malaysians should always treasure the spirit of independence.

"We cannot be shallow in our thinking or be swayed by political rhetoric. We should abide by the provisions in the Federal Constitution which is the supreme law of this land whose foundation stone was laid together by us," he said.

Ong said Malaysians should also not be suspicious of one another because of the actions of one or two individuals. Don't judge a community due to the wrongdoing of one or two individuals. We have had our fair share of differences in the past but this had always been solved amicably," he said.

The carnival was organised by Petronas Gas, Rompin Enterprise and Success Care Enterprise in collaboration with several government agencies.

