

Ka Ting: MCA has attracted many young professionals

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SEREMBAN: The MCA's efforts to attract young professionals have received good response, said party president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said.

As of mid-July, 23,503 new members aged below 40 have been roped into the party.

The professionals include 2,461 entrepreneurs/businessmen, 365 managers, 342 accountants, 341 engineers, 51 architects, 35 doctors, 30 auditors and 22 lawyers.

The party membership now stands at 1.1 million.

Ong advised the new members not to clamour for positions.

"When I joined the MCA, I only wanted to do voluntary work. Never in my wildest dreams did I think of leading the party one day," he told a group of newly-recruited professionals at Wisma MCA here.

Ong said there were many ways these professionals could help as there were many people with problems.

"If you do your bit in whatever little way, you will leave behind a lasting impression, particularly on those

you helped," he said.

Ong, who is the Housing and Local Government Minister, said those who contributed towards the betterment of the community would be automatically recognised and recommended to hold positions.

He said party members, particularly young professionals who were experts in their respective fields, should spare some time and share their knowledge to help the community progress.

On a separate matter, Ong said the party would field new faces in the next general election.

"This is quite natural ... there has

to be some renewal at some point of time," he explained.

At another function, Ong said the party must follow-up with the new members so that their potentials could be tapped to better service the community.

The next general election would be filled with new and various challenges, so party members had to be closer to the grassroots, he said when opening the Malacca MCA state convention.

"The gap between the voters and the party must be made smaller and we must help them understand us better and dispel any wrong

opinions they might have of the party.

"From the previous election in year 2004 until today, we have never stopped serving the people; even after the elections," said Ong.

Ong added for the whole of last year, some 600 Chinese students from low income families but who scored excellent results in their examinations had obtained Public Works Department scholarships.

"From year 2000 until last year, more than 2,100 students have received the scholarship, with last year being the highest ever," said Ong.

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