

# Omar: Peace via BN

## MCA founding member's advice to Malaysians

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The Star -  
24/7/2007

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysians of different races should come together under the Barisan Nasional framework to enhance their common interest and work out whatever differences that arise, said MCA founding member Tun Omar Ong Yoke Lin.

"I have always maintained that by doing so we will be able to enjoy peace, progress and harmony in this country," he said.

This message from the former Senate president was passed to the present MCA leadership for all Malaysians on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

The happy occasion was celebrated at his residence here yesterday by his wife Toh Puan Aishah Ong, three married children and their spouses, and one-year-old grandson.

The MCA leaders present were president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting, his deputy Datuk Seri Chan Kong Choy and vice-presidents Datuk Seri Dr Fong Chan Onn and Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek.

Omar, who was first elected as Kuala Lumpur Municipal Councillor in the 1952 elections, remembers vividly the events then.

"I decided that the MCA should team up with Kuala Lumpur Umno to contest the municipal elections.

"I deemed it fit because Umno was the largest Malay political party and I had good friends among them.

"My ultimate goal was to achieve independence for our country.

"I realised that it would be impossible for MCA to do it alone without an alliance with Umno," said Omar.

By forming an alliance with Umno and later with MIC, Omar said they were able to persuade the people that independence could be achieved by working together with a common goal.

Asked about the leadership styles and visions of the first four Prime Ministers he had served with, Omar said:

"Tunku Abdul Rahman was the right man at the right time because of his relaxed style.

"He was a prince with a common touch and that was very much needed to unite the various races to form a new nation."

As for Tun Abdul Razak, Omar said his great



**Many happy returns:** Omar and his wife Toh Puan Aishah Ong, with grandson Zachary on her lap, smiling as (from right) Fong, Chua, Chan, Ong and his wife Datin Seri Wendy, Chan's wife Datin Seri Anne, and Omar's children and their spouses sing 'Happy Birthday'

energy, foresight and management style set the pace for the massive rural and educational development.

"Tun Hussein Onn was also a great man for his time because of his meticulous attention to detail and this was what the country needed then," he said.

He said Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was the right man to propel Malaysia into the modern age.

"Although I never served under the present Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, I am confident that he will carry the torch forward and bring Malaysia to greater heights," he said.

Ong said the MCA ministers and their wives felt honoured to be given the opportunity to celebrate Omar's birthday.

"Tun Omar has contributed much with his sacrifices, especially when fighting for the country's independence. We are proud of him," he said.

Omar's youngest son, Taufik, thanked the leaders and their wives for being present.

The MCA leaders presented Omar with a birthday cake and *shou bao* (longevity dumpling).



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