

Remembering past MCA leaders

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58th anniversary to honour founders, veterans

KUALA LUMPUR: The MCA 58th anniversary celebrations this Sunday will commemorate the deeds of MCA founders and veteran leaders, including the first president Tun Tan Cheng Lock, party secretary-general Datuk Ong Ka Chuan said.

Under Tan's leadership, the party had helped set up new villages, procured citizenship rights for the community and prevented the British from deporting 500,000 Chinese.

"Without these leaders, our party would not exist today. So we must be grateful to every one of them," Ong

told *The Star* yesterday.

For a start, Ong said the *International Conference on Tun Tan Cheng Lock* would be held at Wisma MCA here at 9am on Saturday, a day before the celebrations at the same venue.

"There will be local speakers as well as others from Singapore, China and Hong Kong who will share their views on Tan's ideals, political ideology and Chinese culture as well as his influence," he said, adding that Tan's granddaughter Tan Siok Choo would also give a speech at the seminar.

Ong said Tan had worked with first

Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman and the then MIC president Tun V.T. Sambanthan to form the Alliance government.

The theme of this year's celebrations is *Maju Seiring Era Baru* (Together Forward Towards a New Era).

"Our country has a lot of potential. We have been working together for the past 50 years, let us continue to work hard for our beloved motherland," he said.

Ong added that the party's logo for the 50th National Day celebrations would also be launched on Sunday.