

MCA remembers party founder

NST- 16/12/2006

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MALACCA: Top MCA leaders gathered at Kampung Musai here yesterday to commemorate the passing of the party's founding and first president, Tun Tan Cheng Lock. Cheng Lock died on Dec 13, 1960.

Led by MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting, the party leadership and members were joined by Cheng Lock's family.

Ong said the party would make the commemoration ceremony an annual event.

"We decided this at the recent MCA central committee meeting as the commemoration of Tun Tan Cheng Lock is a significant way to remember and to remind the nation of the contribution of a great leader to our country," he said.

"This is indeed an honour for the present leaders of MCA, as he was our foremost leader in helping the Chinese community in their most trying times.

"Cheng Lock was also a leader who struggled, sacrificed and fought with the father of Malaysia, Tunku Abdul Rahman, alongside then MIC president Tun V.T. Sambathan, for the independence of our country."

Also present at the event were the party's deputy president Datuk Seri Chan Kong Choy, vice-presidents Datuk Seri Fong Chan Onn and Datuk Dr Chua Soi Lek, and its central committee members.

Members of Cheng Lock's family present were his daughter Agnes Tan, daughter-in-law Lim Cheng Neo (wife of Tun Tan Siew Sin), granddaughters Tan Siok Lee and Tan Siok Choo, and great-grandsons Phang Kin Hoong and Ng Ming Shern.

The MCA leaders also spent time at Tun Tan Siew Sin's grave, which is also located at the family's burial ground.