

Tribute to Cheng Lock for his work

The Star - 11/12/2006

KUALA LUMPUR: A memorial ceremony for MCA founder and one of Malaya's forefathers Tun Tan Cheng Lock will be held at his tomb in Kampung Musai in Malacca at 3.45pm on Friday.

The ceremony marks the start of a series of MCA's 50th National Day celebrations, said party president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting.

"The ceremony is a historic and memorable event for Malaysians as it is an event to recollect Tan's contributions to the nation.

"Tun Tan Cheng Lock worked together with our first prime minister Tunku Abdul Rahman and then MIC president Tun Sambathan to form the Alliance government to fight for our country's independence," said Ong after chairing the party's central committee meeting at Wisma MCA here yesterday.

He said Tan's contributions to the country were highly commended by Malaysia's first two prime ministers.

"Tan is highly respected by Malaysians of all races. He was a

dedicated, honest and righteous leader. He was also concerned about the needs of the less fortunate."

"MCA, under the leadership of Tan, worked for the community by helping to set up new villages, preventing the British government from deporting 500,000 Chinese, promoting Chinese education, fighting for citizenship for the Chinese, and many others," said Ong, who is Housing and Local Government Minister.

"In conjunction with the 50th National Day celebrations next year, we will organise a series of activities. We urge the Chinese to participate to show their love to our country."

On another matter, Ong said the party would celebrate its anniversary on March 11 at Wisma MCA although the party was set up on Feb 27, 1949.

"This is because Feb 27 will be during the Chinese New Year festive period next year and party leaders and members would be attending Chinese New Year functions."