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Preserve principles and spirit, says Ong

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THE Federal Constitution should be the reference to resolve controversies or confusion over the social contract, MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said yesterday.

In a statement, he said that what had been agreed to by the forefathers 50 years ago, especially the principles and the spirit in governing the country, must be preserved.

He said these principles and spirit were enshrined in the constitution.

"For the past 50 years, the country has grown strong on the foundation built by the constitution, the characteristics and traditions of the many races, religions and cultures have become Malaysia's uniqueness," he said.

"We must let it go on."

On Sunday, Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin had suggested that the Umno Overseas Club Alumni should take the lead in creating dialogue within the Barisan Nasional to relook the social contract that was agreed to by the leaders of different racial groups when Malaya attained independence.

Muhyiddin had also clarified that his call for a new consensus on the social contract had been misinterpreted.

He said what he was suggesting was was not aimed at dismantling or changing it but, rather, at strengthening it to enable the younger generation to fully understand and appreciate it.

Ong also said MCA welcomed the National Higher Education

Strategic Plan, which was launched on Monday, as the move shows that the Higher Education Ministry is determined to reform the current higher education system.

He said the country needs a systematic higher education plan to improve its human capital's academic level and competitiveness.

"MCA hopes all goals and plans set by the ministry can be realised in the next three years, especially in

**WOMAN
CAUGHT BUYING
NON-ORIGINAL
CORN FLAKES!**

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setting up the apex universities, which will meet international standards and be given more autonomy to achieve the target of 100,000 PhD holders in 15 years in specific disciplines," he said.

Ong said MCA was happy that the lifelong learning programme advocated by the party had also been incorporated into the strategic plan.

He said the party will offer full support and assistance to the government in implementing the plan to ensure the number of workers with higher education qualification will reach 33% by 2020.