

MCA to set up technical college
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KUALA LUMPUR: MCA will set up a technical college, party president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek announced Saturday.

He said the party had also appointed a committee headed by former human resource minister Tan Sri Fong Chan Onn to study its details and how-to.

"They have three months to come up with a working paper," said Dr Chua.

He said the working paper should be ready by "middle or end of this month".

According to Dr Chua, the setting up of the technical college was to produce more skilled workers to achieve the country's goal to become a high-income nation.

"In our Economic Transformation Programme, from 2010 to 2020, we need an additional 3 billion jobs.

"Half of those require high skills," he said.

"We feel that technical education is very important. If half of the workers needed are skilled workers, I think we are not producing it fast enough," he said.

He was speaking to reporters after launching the Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman's convocation at Wisma MCA Saturday morning where 1,322 students received their scrolls.

He added that as MCA was the one to walk the talk, it was better to take the initiative and to do something instead of blaming the government all the time.

"It is wrong to assume in Malaysia that the government has to do everything as the private sector is playing an increasingly important role," he said.

In his speech earlier, he noted that as a political party, MCA has done more in training of talent compared to any other parties in the country.

"Have you seen any other party which has done better than MCA in this aspect?

"Even the DAP has done nothing except to criticise, notwithstanding they already have the chance to form a government.

UTAR and Tunku Abdul Rahman College, both initiated by MCA, have produced more than 185,000 graduates since they were set up in 2002 and 1969 respectively.

Meanwhile, he dismissed speculation that he would be contesting in Baru Pahat for the upcoming general elections, a seat held by Umno's deputy education minister Dr Mohd Puad Zarkashi.

"That source must only come from the Prime Minister. Until then, I don't respond to speculation.

“Whether I contest or not is not important. What is important is that the party moves forward to face the general election,” said Dr Chua.

Dr Chua was the long-time MP for Labis until 2008 when his son, deputy Agriculture and Agro-based Industries minister Datuk Chua Tee Yong contested after the senior Chua relinquished his seat.

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