

MCA lauds Abdullah's stance

The Star - 19/11/2006

BY NG CHENG YEE

KUALA LUMPUR: The MCA welcomes Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's message that Umno would be responsible and fair to all races, said its president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting.

"On behalf of MCA, I welcome and thank the Prime Minister for his fair and reassuring winding-up speech at the Umno assembly, especially when he reiterated that Umno will be responsible to all races and will never forget their rights as stipulated in the

Federal Constitution."

He said Abdullah's speech had sent a clear message that no one race could rule the country alone.

"The way we (Umno, MCA and MIC) fought for Independence together, the spirit of *kongsi kuasa* (sharing power), consensus and sticking to the Constitution, formulated by our forefathers and party veterans, have to be upheld," he said after launching the 8th World of Chinese Book Fair 2006 yesterday.

Ong urged the various communities to continue nurturing a good relationship with one

another and not subscribe to a zero-sum game.

"Malaysia has very good potential and all races should demonstrate their strengths in building and expanding their economic cake rather than arguing and quarrelling over something we can actually work together for."

He said the Prime Minister had also given the assurance to continue having discussions and reaching consensus in the Barisan Nasional spirit.

"MCA will certainly support our Prime Minister and work closely with him in the spirit of

bermuafakar (cooperation) between component parties.

"We will continue to promote racial unity and work together to ensure the rights of all Malaysians as well as build and develop the economy together in a win-win manner."

Ong said Malaysia has a democratic system that allows people to voice out their unhappiness.

"Like at the Umno assembly, there were debates that caused some concern but the party's top leadership's winding-up speech always represented the party's stand," he said.

Earlier in his speech, Ong said reading was the only way one could seek the latest information and creative ideas.

"In an era that promotes the knowledge economy, the corporate sector must always find creative ways to overtake competitors and stay ahead."

Wanita MCA expressed its fears and concerns at the strong remarks made by some Umno delegates at its party general assembly last week.

Its chief Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen said the Chinese were uneasy over the posturing and insensitive remarks made by some

speakers.

"They have a right to speak up and to express their concerns but no one should go overboard.

"Such criticisms should be contained especially when they are directed against fellow Barisan leaders and against other communities."

Dr Ng also said she was concerned that foreigners who did not understand the politics of consensus, practised by Barisan, would use the statements made by some Umno delegates to project Malaysia in the wrong light.