

“SHI MIN ZHI LU, DAN MIN ZHI YOU”

(Mandate Entrusted by the People,
Responsibility to towards the People)

Good morning everybody.

First of all, on behalf of the MCA Youth Central Committee, I would like to thank all the central delegates nationwide for attending our annual general meeting today. The MCA Youth would like to thank our counterparts from Barisan Nasional component parties for finding time to be with us this morning. We would also like to thank MCA deputy president YB Dato’ Sri Liow Tiong Lai for opening our AGM. And for my comrades in the party, let me extend my thanks and gratitude for your support, especially during difficult times.

Fellow comrades, we just celebrated our country’s 53 years of Independence, and also the 47th anniversary of Malaysia day amidst an increasingly globalised world; one that is full of challenges, development potentials and opportunities. Our party, since its inception 61 years ago, also had its share of ups and downs along the way. But our major concern is the days ahead. We cannot take it easy, or be complacent. There is no longer such a thing as safe seats, or fortress, in the coming general election. In fact, landmines are literally everywhere. And we risked being “bombed” if we are not careful.

We must be humble and change for the better in order to continue the struggles of our Barisan forefathers.

“Shi min zhi lu, dan min zhi you”

(Mandate Entrusted by the people, Responsibility to towards the People)

Today, it’s no longer the era of “*shi jun zhi lu, dan jun zhi you*” but an era of “*shi min zhi lu, dan min zhi you*”. We must not underestimate any force, or be boastful. In fact, it is the people that matters most to us. Just like water, they can either keep the boat afloat or overturn it. It is the people who elected us to become Members of Parliament or state assemblymen. The taxpayers pay our salaries. If we failed to recognize this, or worse still, failed to live up to their expectations, protect their rights and interests; they will just vote us out.

I believe the people want change. They want development for the country, and also able to benefit from it. The people are not interested in clamour or those masquerading like national heroes because all these are of no value and meaningless to them.

It is sad that many have yet to recognize this. They still dream to be national heroes; making racist remarks with complete disregard for other races. Such extremism is not only unacceptable and non-constructive; but also very damaging. Worse still, they justified their acts and claim themselves to be national heroes. In fact, what they are doing are for their own personal again; and all done at the expense of the country’s unity, development and future.

American private intelligence corporation Stratfor founder and CEO, George Friedman, pointed out that primitive men thought that it was a shame for those who did not follow their way of life, and they should be salvaged or terminated. Today, certain people are still holding onto such thinking, and they

are simply the personification of primitive men, or are indeed primitive men living in the 21st century.

Such racist extremists are affecting the Earth's rotation. Hong Kong director and actor Stephen Chow has, in the movie *"Kung Fu Soccer"*, told Vicki Zhao this: "The Earth is very dangerous and better that you return to Mars!" Today, MCA Youth wants to tell the primitive men this: "You do not fit in the modern times, and it is better that you go back to the ancient times!"

Fellow comrades, MCA Youth has always spoken up against such extremists and will not give in to them. We respect our social contract and Federal Constitution. But we will not allow the constitution to be interpreted using their whims and fancies.

I must stress here that Barisan Nasional leadership must draw a clear line with the extremists or extremist groups. The reason being that the Barisan Nasional has to lobby for support from all the people; and must therefore take care of all the people so that no one is left out in the process of development.

No compromise on the calling for the closure of Chinese primary schools

Fellow comrades, the people's concerns are also our concerns. We must listen to their views. Any racist remark or one that is extreme in nature will only stir racial and religious sentiments.

This will not augur well for our multi-ethnic, religious and cultural society. It will erode the country's racial harmony and unity.

As a preventive measure, the Barisan Nasional government must take stern action against those who jeopardise the country's stability and stir racial sentiments. In 1978, Sabah MP Mark Koding called for the closure of Chinese primary schools in the Parliament. He was found guilty of sedition later. I urge Barisan Nasional federal leaders to take prompt action against these people accordingly. We want to see those who disturb the country's harmony be given due punishment.

The status of the Chinese primary schools is enshrined under the Federal Constitution. As such, any call for the closure of Chinese primary schools is equivalent to challenging the constitution. MCA Youth will not compromise on this and its Education Bureau had lodged a police report on the matter. We want to see the police taking action against those who stir racial sentiments.

I must state the obvious; that we have never stopped parents from sending their children to national primary schools. And we do support the introduction of Chinese language classes in national primary schools. Besides, our country is a democratic country and it is up to parents to decide which school to send their children to. The decision of parents should be respected, and we hope the democratic spirit be respected too. Some 90% of students who graduated from Chinese primary schools have continued their studies in national secondary schools. The Chinese primary school is never a stumbling block for achieving national unity, and will not be one in future.

MCA Youth wants to warn those who have 'foot-in-mouth disease' to stop blaming Chinese primary

schools for any racial problem. Chinese primary schools are not your easy punching bags or scapegoat. I want to remind these people that the curriculum for the Chinese and national primary schools come from the same organization, with the same guiding principles of education. The talents from Chinese primary schools are equally patriotic and peace-loving; and they understand the importance of being a caring and helpful Malaysian.

Mencius said: “*Ai ren zhe , ren heng ai zhi, jing ren zhe, ren heng jing zhi.*” (Those who love others will always be loved. Those who respect others will always be held in high esteem by others.) MCA Youth respects and supports leaders of other races who are moderates; like our Prime Minister YAB Dato’ Sri Najib Tun Razak, Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department YB Dato’ Sri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz, and Umno Youth chief YB Khairy Jamaluddin. They have the interests of the people and the country at heart, and with such leaders, our country will have hope. MCA Youth will fight the extremists till the end, for the sake of the people and the country.

Shaping the future step by step

Fellow comrades, education is the base for cultivating talents.

Our efforts on education have been fruitful over the years.

On appeals made to the Public Service Department (PSD) scholarships this year via the MCA Youth; all applicants who scored A+ in all subjects have received their scholarships. We also brought to the attention of the PSD of 133 applicants who did not obtain A+

for all subjects but scored A+ for the main subjects. They were also given scholarships, including 85 of them who received scholarship to study in disciplines like medicine, engineering and pharmacy overseas. Our Prime Minister Dato’ Sri Najib Tun Razak has later added icing on the cake - any SPM high achiever with a minimum 9 A+s will receive scholarships a total of 196 students appealed through MCA Youth had been given scholarships automatically. This is really something for us to rejoice. MCA Youth together with our party President also had taken into consideration the family background of poor students, and had helped another 166 students to get scholarships. Those who obtained seven to eight A+s with family income below RM3,000 or below will receive scholarships. The number of Chinese students who received scholarships is the highest this year compared to the past.

We will continue to work hard and enhance this area.

On financial assistance to the Chinese independent schools; the concept of having income-generating land allocated by the Perak state government to the Chinese independent schools to pay for their operational expenses has been realized. Besides, the central government has awarded a cash prize of RM45,000 each to 50 high achievers from Chinese independent schools, totalling to RM2.25mil. Our Prime Minister will soon announce that 30 of those who passed with flying colours in the STPM examination will be rewarded with cash prizes. We have also successfully helped the Unified Examination Certificate (UEC) holders from Chinese independent schools to enter the Institute of Teacher

Training and this will take effect next year.

Besides policies and hardware building, “software” development is also important for education. Our priorities also include how to resolve problems like school dropout. We must also pay attention to problems like heavy school bags, the language barrier for the students from Chinese primary schools who are attending the national secondary schools, the problem of secondary school students having been offered soft drugs and premature reproductive behaviour among teenagers. To reform education and improve the quality of the mother tongue education, our party and professionals from the education fields have jointly formed a Chinese education development foundation, and it is aimed at tackling all these issues.

Fellow comrades, we really wish to solve all these education related problems once and for all, but in reality, we have to go step by step. But if we persevere, we will reap the fruits of our labour.

I will try my level best as the Deputy Education Minister to handle the Chinese education problems, and I believe, under the liberal leadership of the Barisan Nasional central leaders, and with the assistance from our seasoned Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Dato’ Muhyiddin Yassin who is also Education Minister, we will see results. I will then work closely with our party leaders on establishing a system on grants, land allocation, building of more Chinese primary schools as well as getting more opportunities for UEC students to further their studies, including using UEC results to enter local universities.

Liu zhu ren cai, shan yong ren cai.

(Retain talents and know how to employ the right person to the right job.)

Fellow comrades, the 21st century is an information era, and it is also an era led by knowledge and technology. In this era, the people can create wealth and a career by mastering knowledge and technology. The young Chinese must equip themselves with a tertiary education, or the necessary skills of their interest, in order for them to remain competitive and to be able to play an active role in future nation building.

Our country and society must move forward with time. We must never allow racial discrimination in education and the cultivation of talents. Retaining talents and knowing how to employ the right persons to the right jobs is an important task.

As Japanese philosopher Daisaku Ikeda has pointed out: The young people are the country’s treasure and they will be the wealth of the next generation. Our young people have a lot of creative talents and they are the gems of the country awaiting us to be discovered and shaped. It is important for us to value them and listen to their voices. They should be given the platform and space for development.

As I have mentioned earlier, this is the “*Shi min zhi lu, dan min zhi you*” era and if we view it from the angle as a youth organisation, shouldn’t we be concerned of the youth. German psychiatrist and philosopher Karl Theodor Jaspers once said: “Who have win over the youth, have got the future in their hands”. This shows that “*de min xin, de tian xia*” alone is not enough. We must also be able to understand

the philosophy of “*de qing nian zhe de wei lai*”. The focus on young voters nowadays underscores the importance of winning the support of the young.

I believe Barisan Nasional must be visionary, and the Barisan youth wings have to adapt to meet the changes ahead, especially the popular will of the young, in order to bring them back to the mainstream of nation building. With the assistance and guidance of the Barisan youth wings, they could fully utilise their creativity to shape their dreams and make them come true under the “1Malaysia” concept.

Fellow comrades, we must guide and lead the young, and we must win their support. But do we know what they want? According to a poll targeted at those aged 35 and below, 66% of interviewees said they wish for a higher steady income which helps relieve them from the pressure and stress from life. Apparently, the biggest concern among the young is to make a living for themselves and their families. As such, our strategy should be how we can provide better job opportunities and create a good environment for economic development. This is our urgent task now!

A peaceful and harmonious society, and some healthy and reasonable business investment policies will be conducive for economic investment. Technology, human resources, a sound financial system, good infrastructure like telecommunications, energy and transportation will further enhance the investment environment and also the people’s well being over time.

The “1Malaysia” Concept

Prime Minister Dato’ Sri Najib Tun Razak has introduced the 1Malaysia concept to unite all races, and create a more harmonious and progressive society to lead the country. 1Malaysia will be an important foundation for the country’s future development. Policy reforms can be based on this foundation, followed by the country’s Federal Constitution, to promote an overall economic transformation that will benefit the people and create a more just and progressive Malaysia. This is a goal we have to work together to attain.

We will have to seriously look into those policies that hinder the country’s economic development and be determined to check them. And for all those policies that benefit the people and good for the country’s economic development, we should not hesitate to adopt and make full use of them.

Take our country’s government tenders procedure as an example, I think the officers in charge should consider all tenders without prejudice that foreign goods or companies are better than the local’s and low-priced products are of low quality. I received some complaints from local contractors and suppliers recently; pointing out that the price for the tender had been unreasonably high, yet a low tender price was perceived as likely to provide low quality products, and they failed to get the tender. Only those offered tender prices ranged around the medium or cut-off prices were considered, and many local contractors and suppliers have been excluded because of this.

Let me raise another example! A company wishes

to tender a government project and the officer in charge will set a tender cut-off price, say RM1mil, and will consider those tender prices range between RM850,000 and RM1.05mil, which means not less than 15% of the set tender price, or not more than 5% of the set tender price. However if a contractor uses a much lower price to tender and he or she could still provide high quality service, but because of the tender price is much lower the aforesaid contractor will be excluded. What kind of reasoning is this? Many businessmen are unhappy, and it is time the government must take a serious look at the matter.

We have another similar case of a talent from our country who has designed a printing software technology which is famous worldwide, even the HSBC Bank in Hong Kong uses this software to print currency note. When he returned to Malaysia, he set up a joint venture with a government-linked company (GLC) to make a tender offer to another GLC. However he failed to get the project despite having offered a lower tender price and the contract was given to a foreign-owned company instead.

Local businessmen and local technologies should be given priority in line with the 1Malaysia concept. Our country does not lack talents of various fields and professions. It is the prejudices among our government officers that has resulted in the brain drain, slowing down of the economy; and eventually people finding it hard to make ends meet “*qian bu gou yong*” (money not enough).

Both Korea and Taiwan can be a good model of how they could rapidly recover from their economic slowdown. They are also role models where expanding their consumption of local goods is concerned. The

governments and people of the two countries love their locally made products. If our country gives priorities to consider local businessmen, and the people give preferences to local small-and-medium-sized businesses, this will help them establish a firm footing locally and expand their businesses internationally.

The Government must be stern when it comes to combating corruption, and it must remain prudent and stop civil servants from abusing or misusing public funds. Only a clean government will boost investors' confidence in our country and allow our local businesses to flourish.

The Government should provide support and assistance to local businesses for them to go into international ventures.

Fellow comrades, I must make use of today's opportunity to urge the government to increase the size of the country's economic cake and let more people have a share of it. What is more important is: The government could be the captain for the local entrepreneurs - regardless of race and brands - to promote local products abroad.

Pursuing new business development ventures is like deep sea fishing where we cast our nets deep and wide in the vast open ocean. We should not just focus on our waters and shallow sea as this will limit our harvest.

We must have a global view of the economy and equip ourselves to be competitive in the international arena. We must change our mindset and must not confine ourselves in our little world.

The Barisan Nasional government led by Prime Minister Dato' Sri Najib Tun Razak has announced recently the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) one which gears towards propeling the nation to high-income status by 2020. This is in line with the standard global perspective. The ETP has workable plans that are well received by MCA Youth. We hope the federal government will seriously execute them, leading the people to attain this goal of high-income status. What is important is to guide the local businesses and enable close cooperation among the races to tap the international market.

One of the highlights in ETP is the proposal of the One Malaysia Mall. MCA Youth will give its full support in its coordination, and we sincerely hope, under the government's leadership, the local businesses and enterprises could converge their strength and introduce local brands to the international arena via this concept.

I also urge the central government not to forget the needs of the poor and needy while promoting the large scale economic development programmes. We want to ensure every citizen will benefit from it, and help to improve the overall income and the well being of all the people eventually.

Explore, Be Innovative and Build Local Brands

Fellow comrades, I believe the government has to give emphasis on the innovative capabilities of companies in order to encourage more citizens to be involved in innovation. For instance, the government could establish an "Innovation Award"

including sponsoring innovation projects or giving incentives or tax rebates to those involved in innovation. Innovation and creativity can play an important role in education. We could include the subject of innovative talent education and emphasize on innovation requirement in the other subjects like fashion design, interior design and advertising.

World-renowned shoe designer Datuk Jimmy Choo is a good example of innovative talents from our country. For those young talents with a lot of creativity and potentials, we should nurture them according to their talents regardless of race; provide them scholarships to enter local universities or study abroad. Upon completion of their studies, they can become the fresh blood for the country's economic transformation.

In the past 10 to 20 years, many of our local brands for food, furniture, cosmetics and electrical appliances for instance have entered the international market and won a very good reputation or by word of mouth. This reflects the potentials of our local products and room for development.

In view of this, MCA Youth has decided to organise a "Buatan Malaysia" (made in Malaysia) exhibition soon, to provide a platform for local SMEs to showcase their products. We would invite the relevant government departments and ministries, as well as investors here and from abroad, to come for the exhibition.

MCA Youth will also organise the "Innovation Exhibition" to display innovative products in various fields; ranging from science technology, product packaging, to songs. It will be a platform for the country's talents from various fields to showcase their

innovative products and ideas with the hope that this will help spur the younger generation to explore their own innovative potentials.

Racial Harmony Benefits All Races

The history has its cause in having all different races living on the Malaysian soil and the fore fathers of all races had worked hard on this; and they had come to a consensus in the 50s to fight for the country's independence, to share political power and to build homes here together. Thereafter, we have been on board this ship "Malaysia" and we will have to watch out for each other and work closely together to move towards our attainable goal - being a just and progressive nation. During this 53-year journey, we have weathered the confrontation with Indonesia and the separation from Singapore and gone through the racial riot and financial crisis. The wisdom and fore-sight of the leaders from all races have helped us withstand the test of adversity in history and entered the 21st century of the global village era.

This piece of bumpy course has told us this: the political workers must place racial harmony above all, and be fair and just in developing the country and lead the people. Anything that steers away from these principles will split the country and be disastrous to



the people.

History is a good lesson to us - you reap what you sow, and there is no free lunch that you can reap without sowing. Therefore, instead of giving the people fish and rice, why not teach them how to fish and plant the paddy. Political workers who want to be national heroes should teach the people how to fish and plant paddy so that they have learnt a skill for their livelihood. They will be independent and constantly strive to become stronger and better; and not merely making racist remarks to draw attention.

Pay Close Attention to Freedom of Expression and Allow University Students to take part in Politics.

Fellow comrades, the young people pay close attention to freedom of expression, freedom to form organisations, as well as freedom to take part in politics; and this is what we have to look into seriously. Under lawful circumstances, constructive criticism and suggestions and reasonable views would be positive forces to help remedy the administrative flaws, and play a role to keep an eye on the government. Indeed this is something positive and why should we object such freedom of expression? Why should we oppress? It is different if people abuse "freedom of expression" to spread rumours, to stir racial sentiments and religious issues or simply to incite hatred and conflicts which are damaging to the country.

Under the country's Constitution, it is the right of young people of appropriate age to participate in political activities. But the Universities and

University Colleges Act 1971 has stopped them from taking part in politics, and this is ridiculous. We should do our part by drawing a proper roadmap for our political struggle, and to promote a healthy political culture. With this, we can gain the youth's approval and support. We must not think of them as our enemies, and as if they will definitely oppose us. This is unreasonable. If we worry that university students' participation in politics would affect their studies and the peaceful university life, we can set up some guidelines for them to follow and educate them to have self discipline and be responsible for their own words and behavior. As such, we think the government should seriously consider amending some of the clauses of the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 to allow the students to take part in politics.

Strengthening the Police Forces and Combating Crime

To win the trust and support from the people, we must deal with the issue on public safety and security effectively. The inability to lower crime rate and maintain public safety and security, as reflected in the increasing incidence of robbery, snatch theft, murders and others, has caused feelings of insecurity and complaints from all sides. The Barisan Nasional government will certainly be made accountable for this. Therefore, the public safety and security issue should be given priority as it is not only affecting the people, but it is also tarnishing the image of the country, scaring off tourists and investors alike.

Here I would also like to congratulate Tan Sri

Ismail Omar, the newly appointed Inspector-General of Police. I believe people have placed high hopes on him to do something for the country's public safety and security; and I strongly believe he would be able to restore police credibility.

Seeking Common Ground While Keeping Differences Towards Nation Building Hand in Hand

We all know the people of multiracial Malaysia are friendly, understanding, tolerant and living in harmony; this has contributed to social stability and national development. We breathe the same air and live on the same land. If we all have a hidden motive, fight among ourselves, and cheat each other, it is definitely like burying a time bomb underneath our motherland which will split the country and lay obstacles that hinder the country's progress.

The younger generation of all races in the country should shoulder the task of defusing the "time bomb" and remove the "obstacles" in this new era of global village which emphasizes on diversities. We should seek common ground, put our differences aside, be united under the "1Malaysia" concept and build the nation hand in hand.

History is a mirror and we could learn much from it, like the human history where we have progressed from barbarism to civilization, and the rise and fall of the development law says: "United we stand, divided we fall."

The introduction of "1Malaysia" concept reflects the wisdom and foresight of the Prime Minister. I personally think all races working hand in hand

under “1Malaysia” concept will lead us towards a better and brighter future, while other paths will bring us to dead ends.

Mamak Stall Phenomenon Extending to Every Corner

Fellow comrades, it is not an impossible task to realise “1Malaysia” concept. Take mamak stall as an example. Here, we see all races sitting together, chit-chatting, eating the same *roti canai* and drinking the same *teh tarik*, chatting anything and everything under the Sun, and sharing laughter and giggles. But we still see or read about dispute or argument between the different races in Facebook or the newspapers.

If we magnify the mamak stall phenomenon, we can put an end to racial conflict. To create racial harmony, we must let the mamak stall phenomenon expand to our work place and life at all levels. We must dismantle “the wall in the heart” that has blocked us from accepting and understanding one another’s culture and arts. If we can accept Thai movies and follow Korean drama series, there is no reason that we cannot try to enjoy and admire local movies of high standards.

Accepting Each Other and Breaking Barriers

The people should seriously understand and respect the custom, tradition and taboo of the different races and accept one another as well as admire one another’s culture and arts. These are the best ways to break barriers and build friendships.

MCA Youth must take the initiative in forming consensus and uniting the people for nation building. We sincerely hope all Barisan Nasional youth wings and the young people of all races will play an active role, and be united to promote this worthy undertaking together.

We hope the political leaders of the different races will give priorities on fostering racial unity and national development for the country’s long term interests, cherish what we enjoy today - racial harmony and national unity, and work hard towards racial harmony and national unity to set a good example to the people. Stop the acts of stirring racial sentiments or magnifying racial slurs as this could cause racial tension and threaten national harmony.

Be Sensitive to the Wishes of the People and Be Determined to Reform

After the 308 General Elections, the Barisan Nasional coalition parties should learn from the lessons drawn from how the country’s strong political parties can be defeated. We must seriously study the message the electorates sent to us, to re-evaluate the weakness in our policies and administration, be sensitive to their wishes and be determined to reform. This is an “easier-said-than-done” task which needs wisdom, courage, vision and will from the leaders of all Barisan Nasional coalition parties. It also requires the unity and cooperation between the coalition parties as well as the unity and cooperation within the members from each coalition party.

Wu he zhi zhong, tong chuang yi meng

(Mob, Sleeping on the Same Bed and Dreaming Different Dreams)

Our opponent in the next General Election is Pakatan Rakyat (PR). PR is a three party coalition opposition pact each with their own agenda and it is a group of “*wu he zhi zhong*” (mob) formed out of political convenience and lacks even a basic unified guiding principle on administering the country, not to say a clear long term political ideology. DAP wants to build a secular state, PAS wants to build an Islamic state and PKR swings between both sides. Some have described them as “sleeping on the same bed but dreaming different dreams” while some even use “*ge huai gui tai*” (everyone has a hidden evil desire or motive) to describe them. It is worrying for the people to bet on this coalition that was formed out of political convenience, putting the future of the country and the well being of the future generations at risk. This is also why MCA Youth has opposed the legalisation of football betting because once you place a wrong bet, you are going to suffer and it is hard for you to emancipate.

Zui jia zu he, yi min wei ben.

(The Winning Group Should Be One That Serves The Interests of The People)

Barisan Nasional should further improve itself by enhancing its strengths and rectifying its weaknesses. It should promote what the coalition has over the past learnt - the practice of tolerance and acceptance is the spirit of Barisan Nasional, and let this time-tested winning group to be the Number One choice

for the electorates.

I deeply believe Barisan Nasional’s strong will in carrying out reforms, and MCA Youth, together with other youth wings from Barisan Nasional, play the role of vanguard; practises the spirit of acceptance and tolerance, and welcomes criticism and constructive suggestions. And united, we shall shape Barisan Nasional as one that serves the interests of the people.

Xuan xian ren neng, bing qi luan chen.

(Select the Worthy and Promote the Capable and Drop the Non-performers.)

The Chinese ancient classic “*Zhongyong*” (or The Doctrine of the Mean) says: “*Guo zhi jiang xing, bi you zhen xiang; guo jia jiang wang, bi you yao nie.*” And it means that when a country is about to flourish, there are bound to be auspicious omens; when a country is about to perish, there are bound to be omens of evil fortune. The historian *Sima Qian* interpreted “*zhen xiang* (auspicious omens)” as selecting the worthy, promoting the capable and dropping the non-performers; while the term “*yao nie* (evil omens)” was seen as “*xian ren yin, luan chen gui*” meaning if the worthy and capable live in seclusion or are withdrawn from society, treacherous ministers are in power. In ancient times, a fatuous emperor in power caused the downfall of a country and the treacherous ministers dominated the imperial court and ruined the country’s administration and policy. Only a wise emperor, together with capable ministers, could provide political stability and social harmony to the people. Today, we need a capable leader with an



open mind to rule the country as well as a group of wise officials in various positions to carry out their duties.

We cannot stand fatuous and incapable people who could not perform, or they are extremists who only know how to stir racial sentiments and destroy the country's stability and harmony. Being result-oriented and selecting the wise and capable talents are the guiding principle for appointing the right talents in the modern democratic society. For the country to flourish, we must learn from the lesson stated in the ancient Chinese classic. We must master the essence from the classic and remember the historian Sima Qian's words: the faithful officials or ministers who speak out are the treasures of the country!

MCA Youth and Wanita Work Hard Together

MCA Youth and Wanita are the two wings for the party and the central leaders should pay attention to their importance; for the roles they play, and let the leaders from the two wings take part in party affairs and nation building so that they could help to strengthen the party.

As such, MCA Youth has contacted the Wanita

wing to discuss the possibility of inviting Wanita MCA Youth to join MCA Youth and the discussion is now in the final stage and I believe it can soon be carried out.

The Youth should not discriminate male or female and this phenomenon has already been in existence since the wing was established by one of its founders Datuk Sim Mow Yu. We should go back to the original meaning of youth, one that does not discriminate male or female, and the wings can together serve all youth and help resolve their problems.

Pay Attention on the Democratic Procedures and Unite People From All Walks of Life

Fellow comrades, after the March 28 MCA re-election, our party has, from chaos, stepped back to an orderly path. MCA Youth's stand is to continue to support the practice of the democratic procedures, selecting the wise and capable, using talents and listening to different voices but seeking common ground within the party and uniting the people from all walks of life.

We do not have much time left and we should not waste our time on internal fighting. My fellow comrades, if we are only good at in-fighting and internal struggle, this will not unite us, but also done at the expense of our comrades, and much to the delight of our enemies eventually.

Like the saying goes: "*Pi zhi bu cun, mao jiang yan fu?* (With the skin gone, what can the hair adhere to?)" If we lose the ruling power, MCA will no longer

be the ruling political party and the internal party struggle could continue and the fighting for party positions could intensify, but if we no longer have the ruling power, what is the point of having fought and won the party posts?

It is not easy to be the head of the party these days. It is difficult to start an enterprise but it is even harder to keep it going, and MCA is a “*lao zhi hao*” (literally old brand name) that has been kept by our forefathers for so long until today, and it has reached a critical point now, and whether it can be maintained, will depend on our effort and sincere cooperation. We must learn the fact that there is nothing more important than keeping the ruling power!

Fellow comrades, we must learn from the bitter experience and should not direct our firing at the party itself now; that we have already elected our leadership, we must respect the decision of everybody and there is no reason to create more conflicts. It is useless to play little tricks and risked losing the ruling power. History is no longer our burden and it is only our mirror for us to learn from our mistakes and experiences. It is time we bury the conflicts in the past and reorganise ourselves to fight for our future together.

For the comrades in MCA Youth who have fought together side by side with me, I must express my special thanks for your selfless contributions at all times, particularly during difficult moments. You never abandon our struggle or give up, you stand firm on your principles and this has contributed to the stability of MCA Youth. I will always cherish this

comradeship and friendship.

I know the path ahead is rugged, but I also know there are bigger challenges ahead in the future awaiting us. Like what Sandra Ng said in the movie “Echoes of the Rainbow”: “People have to believe”; If we believe reform will be successful, if we go on with the direction of the party’s struggle, if we stick to the strong will, the drive and motivation of MCA Youth to march forward, and make the most of the MCA Youth’s brotherhood, we should be able to walk through the storm and be greeted by sunshine.

The winds can affect the growth of the trees but it’s a choice in your hand to decide your direction. Whether our future goes towards success or downfall, the decision belongs to us and the future lies in your hands. Fellow comrades, it is time we start our new journey and let us be innovative and unite youth of all races to build a better tomorrow, and to achieve our new dream of “1Malaysia” together! Thank you.

