

ANOTHER MP LEAVES DAP TO JOIN MCA

Bahan asal dari Arkib
Negara Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The DAP MP for Tanjong, Mr Wong Hoong Keat, resigned from the party today and joined the MCA to "assist in the development, progress and the good and well-being of our people."

"At the present stage of our history, opposition for the sake of opposition is an exercise in futility," he said.

"We have achieved and can achieve nothing constructive. There is a danger that we may continue to indulge in false heroics and emotionalism whilst the hopes of the people whom we are supposed to represent slowly fade away," Mr Wong said.

His brother, Mr Wong Hoong Yin, who was also a DAP member in Penang, also crossed over to the MCA today.

The Wong brothers announced their decision at a Press conference at the MCA headquarters here.

Also present were MCA president Datuk Lee San Choon, deputy president Datuk Richard Ho, secretary-general Tan Sri Chong Hon Nyan and vice-presidents Datuk Dr Neo Yee Pan, Datuk Lew Sip Hon, Datuk Chan Siang Sun and Datuk Mak Hon Kam.

Penang MCA chief Mr Lim Kean Siew and Penang MCA secretary Mr Lee Jong Ki were also present.

The Wong brothers

stressed that their crossing over was not prompted by any inducement or promises made by the MCA but was a "personal decision made after long deliberation."

Mr Wong Hoong Keat's defection means that the DAP representation in Parliament has been reduced to 13 while the MCA now has 19 MPs.

Mr Wong's Tanjong parliamentary constituency encompasses the State constituencies of Kampung Kolam (represented by Mr Ooi Ean Kwong who recently left the DAP for the Gerakan), Padang Kota (represented by Penang Chief Minister Dr Lim Chong Eu) and Pengkalan Kota (won by Mr Lim Kean Siew in a by-election on Nov 15).

Mr Wong said the people of Pengkalan Kota had "spoken clearly" in the by-election.

"It had never been a Barisan Nasional seat but the people, have, in mid-term, changed their minds and voted for stable, controlled political adjustments within the framework of peace, progress and development.

"I was elected by the people to serve the people and to work for their welfare and well-being.

"Especially, in view of the Pengkalan Kota by-election, I am of the view that I can no longer be effective and represent the

people if I do not follow their new sense of direction.

"Having cognisance of their hopes and aspirations I must adjust my stand accordingly," Mr Wong said.

He added that he was also taking the stand to help prevent further erosion of the rights of "some of our people."

"I accept the need for unity in order that we may develop and progress for posterity," he said.

He emphasised the need for the unity of the Chinese and other minority groups to maintain the unity and progress of the country.

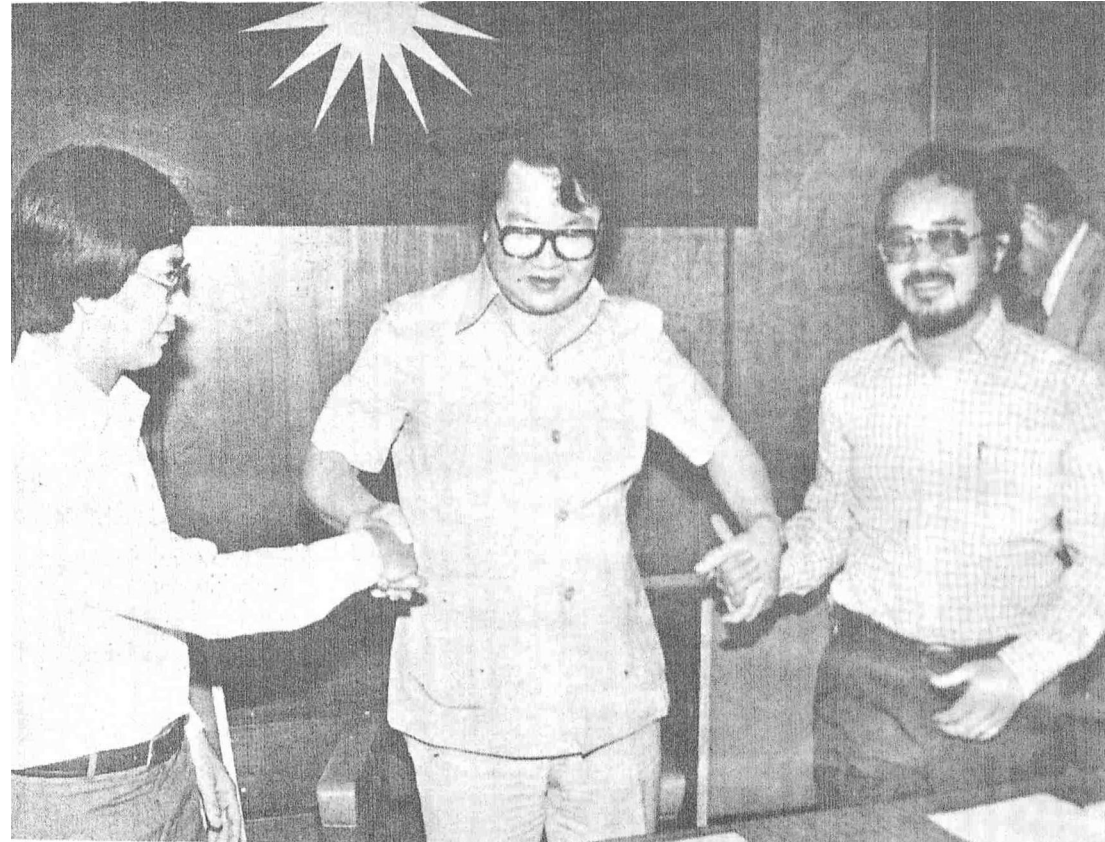
Mr Wong Hoong Yip said they had taken this stand because there was no other way out for the Chinese community.

The Wong brothers said they joined the DAP in 1978 although their father, Mr Wong Loh Han, was a founder member of the Penang MCA.

"When we are young we tend to be too idealistic but as time goes on, we see things in their proper perspective.

"We have made errors and feel we should acknowledge them and make realistic adjustments not only for ourselves but in the interest of the people and the nation," they said.

They added that they had not been approached by former DAP political bureau director Mr Chan



FOR UNITY. . . (from left) Mr Wong Hoong Keat, Datuk Lee San Choon and Mr Wong Hoong Yin.

Teck Chan who had said he was planning to set up his own party. "Anyway, we believe there should not be any more splinter parties to divide the Chinese.

"We are leaving the DAP not because of the

present crisis in the party but because we must put national and the people's interests above our own.

"We bear no hatred or ill-will towards the DAP leaders but we cannot agree with their policies,"

they said

They added that more DAP members in Penang will follow them into the MCA.

On Sunday, the expelled DAP MP for Bukit Mertajam and State Assembly-

man for Pekan Bukit Mertajam Mr Seow Hun Khim, the State Assemblyman for Paya Terubong Mr Chin Nyok Soo, and Penang DAP secretary Mr Goh Lim Eam joined the MCA.