

Ghafar: I'm not weary and don't wish to retire

N.S.T. 8 MAC 1976

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Former Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Encik Abdul Ghafar Baba said today he was not "weary" and did not wish to retire from politics.

He was commenting on a statement by Dr. Mahathir Mohamed in Segamat yesterday that he needed a rest and wanted to retire.

"I did not request Dr. Mahathir to speak on my behalf on that matter," Encik Ghafar said.

"It is true that I

planned not to contest the 1974 general election as mentioned by him.

"But I changed my mind and accepted the offer to be a candidate ... after my doubts over my plan to abstain from contesting were cleared by the late Tun Abdul Razak. And not because I wanted to rest, as stated by Dr. Mahathir.

"My statement two days ago that I would continue to be active in the party was to explain my position clearly.

"I am not weary and do not wish to retire yet."

Encik Ghafar reiterated that he would continue to be active in politics, and would devote more time to party matters although he was no longer in the Government.

"A person wishing to be in politics need not necessarily be a Cabinet Minister," he said.