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Lim-Quit

MCA'S NO 2 WANTS TO QUIT POLITICS

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 17 (Bernama) -- MCA deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek wants to be excluded from the party's list of candidates for the Nov 29 general election, saying he intends to retire from politics.

"In fact I had planned to retire from politics way back in 1986 but was asked to stay on by the party president to stabilise the party," he told reporters, here, today.

But, he said, MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik insisted that he contest the polls despite his strong wish to be left out this time around.

Lim, who is also MCA Pahang chairman, said he had even submitted the party's list of candidates from the state without his name.

Lim, who is a very well-liked Human Resources Minister especially among the trade unions, many of which had appealed to him to contest the polls, said he was scheduled to meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad later today on the matter.

Asked why he wanted to quit politics, Lim said he had already served 25 years in various political appointments, including 10 years in the Federal cabinet, and he wanted new faces to take over.

"It's time to groom younger people. I wish to spend more time with my family and friends. It's the right time to go and it's not an overnight decision," he said.

Lim said he had absolutely no problems with Dr Ling, whom he described as a "twin brother".

"Even the prime minister has given a lot of leeways to do what I want to do in the ministry," he said.

He also hoped that his decision to retire from politics would not be made into an issue.

-- BERNAMA

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