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Teng looks to day women leaders will contest top posts

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - MCA Wanita chairman Datuk Teng Gaik Kwan said today her decision to retire from politics would give her a chance to pursue other interests as well as concentrate on her duties as Deputy Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister.

She also said her decision not to run for the MCA vice-presidency was due to her belief that it was not the time to do so for a Wanita MCA leader.

"I can foresee that in the very near future, Wanita MCA leaders will contest for MCA party leadership posts," she told reporters at the MCA headquarters, adding that the time would be better when the women movement's membership reached 500,000. "It is hoped the men would realise and accept the fact that a woman can run for the party leadership post."

Asked why she did not want to lead the way for women's entry into the party, Teng said she would leave it to the younger generation to do so.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik announced yesterday that Teng would be retiring from politics. He said she would not be defending her MCA Wanita chairman post or contesting for the party vice-presidency.

Teng said she would be willing to play the role of adviser to Wanita MCA if she was invited to do so.

"I will be more than willing to attend meetings from time to time," she said, adding that the new Wanita leadership should be allowed to operate without too much interference from those who have retired.

On her government post, Teng said it was up to Dr Ling and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

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