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Teng won't seek re-election

M.K. Megan

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - MCA Wanita chief Datuk Teng Gaik Kwan will not seek re-election in the party polls this weekend.

Her decision makes it a straight fight between secretary-general Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen and MP Dr Tan Yee Kew.

The announcement ends weeks of uncertainty over the intentions of the Raub MP who is also Deputy Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said Teng informed him of her decision at a central committee meeting today at Wisma MCA. This is the last meeting before the general assembly on Friday.

"I thank Datuk Teng for her contributions to the Wanita wing and the party as a whole. Under her, the Wanita wing has grown from strength to strength. She has built it up nicely."

"Although Datuk Teng will not be the MCA Wanita chief, her position in the Government will not be affected," he said. She has been Wanita chief for five terms.

Dr Ling said Teng's services and experience would still be needed in the party. "There are some projects started by her which are not finished. She has to be around to complete them."

He said Teng had set a good example by not seeking re-election.

"When someone's time is up they should leave. There are some who know they have to leave but they will put up a fight and create more problems."

He said Teng was following the new trend in the party, which was to pave the way for the younger generation to take over.

He said 96 per cent of the branches and 75 per cent of the divisions did not experience contests.

Similarly, more than 80 per cent of the States did not have contests.

He also praised the formula adopted by the two contestants for the top Wanita post.

"The winner will be the chairman while the loser will be the deputy. We do not want to lose any of them. Both are capable and the party needs their services.

"It would be okay if we had 40 or 50 people like them. But unfortunately, we only have two and we cannot afford to lose any of them."

He said the campaigning was very mature. "There were no mudslinging, no poison pen letters and no money politics. Everything is going on smoothly and all are behaving well."

Dr Ling said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would attend the MCA Congress this weekend.

Veteran MCA members had been invited to the meeting. "Without them the MCA would not be here. We have to honour them," he said.

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