

27/08/2002

Gan to step down as Malacca MCA chief

A. Hafiz Yatim

MALACCA, Mon. - Former State Executive Councillor and MCA strongman, Datuk Wira Gan Boon Leong, announced today that he will not contest in the next general election and will step down as State MCA chief.

But he said he will not completely resign from politics.

Gan, who made the announcement at his 68th birthday celebration last night, said he would not give up his post as Kota Melaka MCA chief.

He said his immediate task was to ensure Barisan Nasional wins one or two of the State seats in the Kota Melaka parliamentary constituency held by the DAP. There are five seats in the constituency.

"I think 31 years in politics is a long time and I feel it is necessary to make way for new leaders.

"I wish to thank the people, party President Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for placing their trust in me."

Gan said he had informed Dr Ling of his intentions and he (Dr Ling) accepted the decision.

Gan began his early political career in 1971 as a party worker.

He won the Mr Malaysia and Mr Asia bodybuilding titles in the 1960s. He first contested in the 1978 general election for the Bandar Hilir seat but lost.

In 1982, he contested the Bandar Hilir seat against DAP stalwart Lim Kit Siang and won with a majority of more than 3,000 votes.