

Ling pledges to keep on contributing

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KUALA LUMPUR: Former MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik has pledged to continue contributing to the party after his retirement from active politics.

"I am very grateful to MCA and will continue to contribute under any role I consider suitable.

"I will do everything I can for the party and also its projects," said Dr Ling, who stepped down as party president on May 23.

Dr Ling, who is Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (Utar) chairman, said after launching the MBF MCA Affinity Card Programme at Wisma MCA here yesterday, that he would

also fulfil commitments he had made.

On pursuing a third career, the medical doctor-turned-politician said it would be something "in line with his skills and temperament."

Dr Ling's resignation, as Transport Minister was accepted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last Wednesday. He began a one-month leave on the same day.

"I am still on holiday. My mind is also on holiday," he said in jest.

Yesterday's function - the first after he stepped down as party president - saw Dr Ling starting his speech on a light note.

"Habits die hard. Just now, I

went to my office to have a drink. I was surprised to see Ka Ting sitting on my chair. He quickly got up to offer me the seat but I dared not take the seat," he said to laughter from the floor.

Also present at the ceremony were MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting, MBF Cards (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd president Datuk Loy Teik Ngan and MBF chairman Datuk Kalimullah Masheerul Hassan.

Loy said MBF would donate 0.1% of all retail spending charges and also a portion of the members' annual fees to Utar under this programme.

He said MBF's target for the first year was 100,000 members and RM4mil as donation for Utar.