

I won't call it quits, says Ong
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The word 'retire' doesn't figure in former MCA president Ong Tee Keat's extensive vocabulary that stretches to fluency in Mandarin, English and Bahasa Malaysia.

NONE“(Retiring has) never crossed my mind... Removal (from public office) is not synonymous with retiring,” he said in a recent interview.

Ong, 54, who was unceremoniously defeated as MCA president in March and then replaced as transport minister, said there are many platforms via which he can still serve, with or without posts.

As the MP for Pandan in Kuala Lumpur, he does not intend to confine his role in Parliament to one of lengthy debate .

“As many would know, sometimes it can get sickening in Parliament. At times I call it a sheer waste of public funds,” he said.

“My focus remains on my commitment to human capital development, as well as social development. Under these two broad headings, there are many more sub-headings.”

Ong's biggest wish

Ong listed his Hope programme - which gives a second chance to those who do not qualify for admission into public universities - as among his many projects.

mca re-election nomination 220310 ong tee keatHe is also working closely with NGOs to push for youth empowerment, and has plans to expand the operations of his mobile clinic beyond the borders of his constituency.

But Ong's biggest wish is to get back to his first passion - creative writing - as he recalled his first article written in Mandarin when he was a 16-year-old in 1972.

He wrote quite a bit, producing television and radio drama scripts to essays, political commentaries, and even translating his own work to English or Bahasa Malaysia.

“It is all a matter of time management, but if I could, I'd like to get back to writing. It's really one of my passions,” he said.

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