

# Keng Yaik wants to become a lawyer

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Retiring Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik is going back to school.

He plans to take up law at the party's Wawasan Open University.

A medical doctor, the outspoken 67-year-old politician said he had always wanted to be a lawyer.

"A doctor can become a lawyer, but a lawyer cannot become a doctor," he said to laughter from Gerakan leaders at "The Struggle for Party and People" pictorial exhibition which highlights his role and contribution to the party.

The exhibition, which is open to the public until Sunday, is a journey down memory lane for Dr Lim, showcasing over 1,000 pictures of his achievements, constituency work as well as his political and personal journeys.

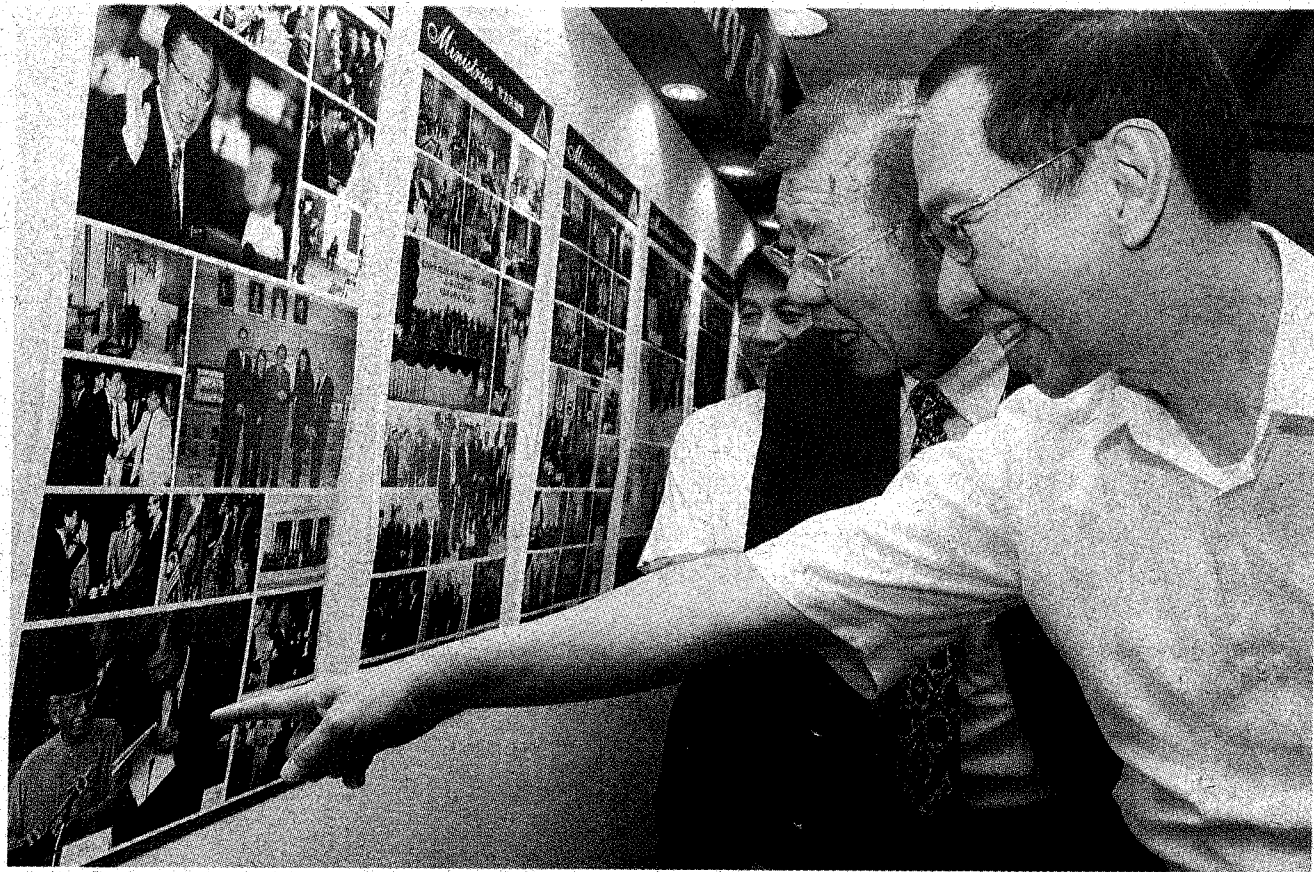
Dr Lim said a law degree would come in handy since he was always being sued.

"I'm being sued left, right and centre, and I have to depend on lawyers to fight for me. I paid them through the nose but to date, I haven't seen a single sen," he said.

He was referring to two suits initiated by then DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang and former Batu MP Datuk Joseph Chong against him in the mid-90s.

Both the High Court and the Court of Appeal subsequently dismissed their suits.

Dr Lim also revealed that Parti Keadilan Rakyat adviser Anwar Ibrahim's lawyers had sent him a letter about a RM10 million defamation suit.



Gerakan deputy president Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon (right) and president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik admiring the photos at 'The Struggle for Party and People' pictorial exhibition yesterday.

"See, if I'm legally trained and qualify as a lawyer, I can represent myself... No need to deal with lawyers or pay for one," he said, and added that everyone wanted to sue him because of his "big mouth".

Tapah-born Dr Lim will retire as president tomorrow after 26 years and seven months, handing over the reins to his deputy, Tan Sri Dr

Koh Tsu Koon.

He said the public only knew about his jovial personality, but he also had an emotional side. He said he chose April 8 to retire because it coincided with his birthday and he wanted the handover of the presidency to be a happy occasion.

Referring to his favourite song by Engelbert Humperdinck, Dr Lim quipped: "I've

sang *Please Release Me* for seven long years, only now they are completely releasing me."

Saying that it had been a long journey, he said he had no regrets and given a chance, he would do it all over again.

He is relieved he is leaving at a time when the party is united and expressed confidence that all members will give their fullest support to Dr Koh.

Dr Koh described Dr Lim as a "unique person, one of a kind, *mou tak teng* (best of the best)".

Vice-president Datuk Dr S. Vijayarajam said: "He also has a big heart and he carries no hard feelings. But if he doesn't look at you in the eyes and answers in monosyllables, you better shut up and get out," he said.