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Gerakan-Chong

CHONG WANTS NO CONDITIONS ATTACHED BEFORE MEETING LIM

SEREMBAN, Oct 2 (Bernama) -- Batu Member of Parliament Datuk Joseph Chong said tonight Gerakan president Datuk Dr Lim Keng Yaik should not set any condition for him to meet Dr Lim.

He said they could have an open or closed discussion any time but there should not be any conditions attached as it was for the benefit of the party and country.

"I hope he (Dr Lim) can change his mind and have a discussion with me as soon as possible and, furthermore, allow me to contest in the party elections," he told reporters after meeting his supporters from Negeri Sembilan, here.

He made it clear that he would not meet Dr Lim if he had to follow the party president's prerequisites.

Earlier Dr Lim said he was willing to meet Chong provided Chong followed the party constitution, abided by the party's central committee decisions, maintained party unity and did not resort to the courts or the press to settle disputes.

On the likelihood that he would be expelled from the party, Chong said it was up the central working committee to make the decision and he did want to make any prior comment on it.

"I took the court actions just to protect my rights as a party member and my rights to contest in the party's elections even though I agree with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's advice to settle all differences within the party and not in court".

"The action taken was just to exert my legal right as a party member and not to just let the party president have his own interpretation of the party's constitution".

Chong also said that he would seek the opinion of the Barisan Nasional leadership before making any further decision on his position as Batu Member of Parliament if he was expelled from Gerakan. -- BERNAMA

RAB JK