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GERAKAN CHIEF TO SEEK PM'S ADVICE ON KONG

KUALA LUMPUR, June 27 (Bernama) -- Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said today he will seek the advice of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the action of the party's sole Sabah assemblyman to abstain in the vote on a Barisan Nasional-sponsored bill in the state assembly last week.

Dr Lim said he would explain the action of its assemblyman and the party's decision not to penalise him to Dr Mahathir who is Barisan Nasional chairman.

Kudat assemblyman Datuk Kong Hong Ming, who is Gerakan Sabah chief and a national vice-president, abstained in the vote on the Forestry Enactment (Amendment) Bill.

He was absent when the assembly voted on four other bills which, together with the forestry bill, were aimed at transferring some powers of the Sabah Chief Minister to his Cabinet.

A nominated assemblyman from Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat Bersatu, Jahid Jahim, was expelled by his party for voting against the forestry bill.

Kong had said he abstained in the vote because Gerakan was unfairly treated by the Sabah BN.

Dr Lim, in commenting on reports that some BN leaders were dissatisfied with Gerakan's lenient treatment of Kong, said he hoped they would not forget the BN spirit.

"I was one of those who suggested to the Prime Minister by letter some four months ago to reduce the powers of the Sabah Chief Minister," he told reporters after opening the Woodtech Malaysia '96 exhibition here. --

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