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Gerakan-Amendments

GERAKAN MEMBERS FACE EXPULSION FOR DRAGGING PARTY TO COURT

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 5 (Bernama) -- Gerakan members will be Automatically expelled if they take the party to court under proposed amendments to the party constitution.

Party president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik, who is tipped to be returned to his post in the party election today, said he would recommend to the new central committee that members would not be allowed to take party matters to court or or face expulsion.

He would also propose that the nomination period for the party's triennial election be reduced to one day from its current three weeks to take the pressure off the election supervisory committee.

"A lot of things can happen in three weeks. A person can die, be declared a bankrupt or change his position in the party," he told reporters after the opening of the party's national delegates' conference here by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The proposed amendments especially the automatic expulsion are expected to be approved following Batu MP Datuk Joseph Chong's court actions against the party to reinstate him as a central committee member and accept his candidacy for the party president's post. He, however, failed in his court bid.

During the debate on the party president's policy address, many delegates spoke out against Chong and urged the party leadership to make good of its threats against errant members who tarnish the party's image.

Dr Lim said members should settle internal party matters within the party as this would make the party more stable.

On calls to expel Chong, he said any recommendation of action against him had lapsed and become obsolete since a new central committee would emerge from the election.

However, the national delegates' conference can indicate or decide on the fate of any member who had marred the party's image, he said, adding that he did not want to single out any particular person.

"The new central committee will know. It will listen to the voices of the delegates," said Dr Lim, who is Primary Industries Minister. -- BERNAMA

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