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Gerakan-Constitution

KENG YAIK: GERAKAN MEMBERS MUST ABIDE BY PARTY CONSTITUTION

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 5 (Bernama) -- Gerakan members must abide by the party constitution at all times as it is considered "the religion and law", party president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said today.

"Our constitution has gone through the court and it has been tested for the past one week. Judges, lawyers, the press and public now know about our constitution," he said referring to 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 presidency. He, however, failed in his court bid.

The party leadership was happy that everything (court actions) was over and the party's national delegates' conference is lawful and being attended in a peaceful manner, he said at the opening of the two-day conference by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

A total of 1,265 delegates will vote in the new central committee for 1996/99 at the conference.

Dr Lim is defending his post against Taman Wahyu branch chairman Cheang Chin Chai.

Dr Lim, who spoke in English and Bahasa Malaysia, also exposed that some party members had resorted to money politics and efforts are being made to nip such practices in the bud failing which leaders would be elected based on their wealth and not on merits.

He said money politics were evident during the branch, division and state-level party elections early this year.

The elections were marred by the use of money to get votes and positions by a small group of members, said Dr Lim, who is Primary Industries Minister.

He said the party has set up a special committee headed by deputy president Kerk Choo Ting to investigate allegations of money politics.

"If there is adequate evidence, the cases will be referred to the party's Disciplinary Committee to take actions against those involved," he said, adding that party members should not permit such practices to rear its ugly head in the party.

As a party committed to the struggles of creating a fair, just and united nation, Gerakan members must pool their resources to strengthen and enhance the support for the party at grassroot level.

Dr Lim also touched on various issues in his speech including education, manpower shortage, information technology and Vision 2020 to turn Malaysia into a developed country.

He also paid tribute to Dr Mahathir who has successfully propelled the country towards rapid economic growth and development in his 15 years as prime minister.

He also announced the launch of the party's RM5-million education loan scheme to enable party members' children to pursue higher education in local institutions of higher learning.

The scheme would be useful following the government's move to privatise the educational institutions. -- BERNAMA

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