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Be sensitive to needs of the people, States urged

MALACCA, Sun. - Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik today criticised State Governments for being insensitive towards the "bread and butter" of the people.

Lim, who is also Primary Industries Minister, said the party had received numerous complaints against State Governments pertaining to their insensitivity.

He said there were State Governments which would rather sell land, in the name of development, to private companies to be developed into golf courses than hand them over to the kampung people.

"I have seen a lot of State Governments being insensitive to the needs of the rakyat in developing big projects," he said.

"They do not care whether the projects will affect the livelihood of the people. And developers, being insensitive to their needs, will start cutting down trees, causing environmental damage and others.

Speaking after opening the State-level Gerakan's 22nd meeting at a hotel here, he said government departments especially those manning the counters must be efficient and trustworthy in discharging their duties.

"The service departments such as the Land Office, Immigration Department and others where people come in contact with government staff must improve their service and ensure that it is clean, efficient and trustworthy. The service must always be looked into.

"They must be clean and also seen to be clean like what our Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said.

"The people, so far, are pleased with big development projects carried out in the country but do not in the name of development make the rakyat feel angry and dissatisfied."

He also said he had advised Gerakan members to bring up the matter (complaints against the State Governments) to the relevant authorities or even the media.

Lim added that he would tour every State to inform party members on the need to be sensitive towards such needs.

On corruption, Lim said the party fully supported the Government's move to stamp out unhealthy practices.

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