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Gerakan-revamp

GERAKAN TO BE REVAMPED IN A BID TO STOP IN-FIGHTINGS

KUALA LUMPUR, July 5 (Bernama) -- Gerakan will undertake a major revamp which will involve drastic changes to its constitution in a bid to avoid power struggle and in-fightings, party president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said today.

He said the changes would, among others, ensure that a member would be eligible to vote and contest in the party elections at any level only after serving as a member for at least two years.

"This is to avoid instances where during party elections, there will be mass mobilisation of new members for in-fighting purposes," he told a news conference after chairing the Gerakan Central Committee (CC) meeting at the party headquarters here.

Dr Lim however said only the Central Working Committee (CWC), the party's executive arm, could decide if a member who could not fulfil the two year membership ruling, could vote or contest in an election.

The Gerakan president said the CC also decided that the post of secretary-general and treasurer-general should be appointed ones instead of elected as being practised now.

"Under the proposed amendment to the constitution, the secretary-general and treasurer-general will be appointed by the party president from amongst the CC members with the approval of the CC," he said.

The proposed amendments would be tabled at the party's delegates conference scheduled for Aug 16 and 17. It is expected to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Lim said the party would also have three deputy secretaries-general instead of one presently.

At state level, he said there would be no changes to the current method of electing the state chairmen.

However, their term of office will be extended from two years to three years. With this, the state and national level elections will be held on the same year, he added.

"Branch and division elections will be held once in two years (as before)," he said.

He also said the power to select the party's candidates for state and federal elections and the appointment of local councillors would be shifted from the CC to the CWC.

On his suggestion recently that he gives up his Cabinet post to show to the members that one could still serve the people as a member, Dr Lim said said he had asked the CC members to look into his proposal.

"We don't have to go to the press to say if we are in support of this or not. We have to discuss in the CC," he said.

As to the question of whether he would retire, Dr Lim said it would totally depend on his decision in future.

"Whether I would carry on or not would depend on my assesment of the party," he added. --BERNAMA

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