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Koh: Keng Yaik should stay on in Cabinet

PENANG, Thurs. - Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said today Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik should stay on as Gerakan president and Cabinet Minister as the nation and party still need him.

Koh, a party vice-president, said there was no need for Dr Lim to give up his Cabinet post just to prove that politics was not merely about position and status.

Referring to NST reports over the weekend that Dr Lim was contemplating asking the Gerakan to let him relinquish his ministership but remain party president, Koh said:

"He does not have to prove it as he has already proven it in the past. He was our party president without a Cabinet post for more than six years.

"And as deputy president, he did not even contest a seat until 1978," he said when commenting on Dr Lim's plan to be party president without being in the Government.

"Dr Lim has always been sincere, straight forward and has repeatedly voiced his views and wishes.

"While this is a very noble attitude and I agree with the concept, I would still urge him to stay on as he has been a very effective and outspoken leader both in the Cabinet and party.

"Dr Lim is not even 60 yet and has still many good years left in him," Koh said, citing as an example Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who was over 70 years old and could still provide effective leadership and yet maintain a hectic pace.

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