

Veteran journalist denies part in Gerak

S 29.9.98
32

KUALA LUMPUR: Veteran journalist Tan Sri Abdul Samad Ismail has "emphatically" denied his involvement in the *Majlis Gerakan Keadilan Rakyat Malaysia* (Malaysian People's Council for Justice) or Gerak launched on Saturday.

He said he was not a member of the movement and did not know how his name was listed down as backing its formation.

"I emphatically deny any involvement. I totally disassociate myself from it," he said.

Samad said although he was "not an official Umno member," he supported Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's leadership.

Gerak is a coalition of opposition parties including PAS, DAP, Parti Rakyat Malaysia, and non-governmental organisations such as Persatuan Ulama Malaysia, Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (Abim), Jemaah Islah Malaysia, Persatuan Perubatan Islam Malaysia, Consumer Association of Penang, Persatuan Kebangsaan Siswazah Muslim, and Persatuan Kebangsaan Pelajar Islam Malaysia.

The movement aims to abolish the Internal Security Act and the thrust for the time being was to call for Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's release, or for him to be charged in court.