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Concentrate on reviving economy, urges Keng Yaik

Chok Suat Ling

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Gerakan today advised Malaysians not be "sidetracked" by the sacking of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from his positions as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister but instead concentrate on reviving the country's economy.

Its president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said the public should not allow the political problem to divert their attention from the current economic downturn.

"We can bring about an early recovery if we fully concentrate on it alone. Malaysians must remain focused," he said after chairing Gerakan's central committee meeting at Menara PGRM today.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had worked hard to revive the economy by taking various measures.

On the sacking of Anwar, Lim said the move was necessary to protect the image and integrity of the nation.

"During the central committee meeting, all members unanimously supported Dr Mahathir's decision to sack Anwar.

"We believe the Prime Minister has every reason to make this decision. He had made his reasons clear and we agree that sexual misconduct is a good enough reason."

He said Gerakan also fully supported the measures introduced by the Government on capital and currency controls.

"The party also supports the appointment of Salomon Smith Barney as advisers on economic recovery.

Lim said the party was behind the Prime Minister in everything he did.

"This is because we are confident he will do the right thing. Dr Mahathir has the country's best interests at heart when he makes decisions, whether it be political or economical.

"At times, Malaysians themselves might have doubted the Prime Minister's views but over time, his views have been proven right," said Lim.

He said the new measures might necessitate sacrifices and bring about inconveniences, but it could not be denied that the measures were working.

"We are getting support even from those who initially criticised Dr Mahathir's views. The ringgit has been stabilised and genuine investors can plan their actions carefully."

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