

14 JUN 1998

Gerakan-Danaharta

INDEPENDENT PEOPLE MUST RUN DANAHARTA, SAYS KENG YAIK

JOHOR BAHRU, June 14 (Bernama) -- Pengurusan Dana Harta Nasional Bhd, the asset management company set up to deal with non-performing loans in the banking sector, must be run by independent people, Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said today.

He said Danaharta's board of directors must be free from political, government and Bank Negara influence.

Its operations must be aided by recognised international auditors, he told reporters after opening the Johor Gerakan delegates' conference, here.

The directors must be given a free hand to discharge their duties professionally, said Dr Lim, who is also Gerakan president.

" Let them decide what needs to be saved and what need not be," he said.

He said the government must also identify businesses and strategic infrastructures to ensure their continued implementation through capital injection particularly privatised infrastructure projects.

The government through the Economic Planning Unit in the Prime Minister's Department must determine the strategic businesses based on the country's needs, he said.

On claims by certain people that nepotism and cronyism were practised in Malaysia, Dr Lim said Gerakan was concerned with such accusations.

" I concur with Dr Mahathir that nepotism and cronyism were western terms introduced in Malaysia. Many people use the terms without knowing the actual meaning," he said.

Dr Lim said he feared that if there were too many debates on nepotism and cronyism, it would adversely affect the work of the people appointed to run Danaharta.

Those appointed to manage Danaharta should not be disturbed before they start work, he said.

He feared that continued debates on nepotism and cronyism would alarm them and prevent them from taking bold decisions, he said.

" The debates must be stopped immediately. If we continue, we cannot do anything," he said.

He said measures taken by the government were not to bail out any individual or corporate figures but to ensure businesses did not wind up.

-- BERNAMA

MKO TS