

21 MAR 1998

Gerakan-Contest

NO CONTEST IN 90 PER CENT GERAKAN BRANCHES

KUALA LUMPUR, March 21 (Bernama) -- More than 90 per cent Gerakan branch chairmen have been returned unopposed in the ongoing elections, party president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said today.

He said the percentage was much better than in 1996.

He, however, warned stern action would be meted out against members who disrupted smooth running of the polls in remaining branches.

"Those involved in any form of violence like threats, fistfights or abusing other members will be suspended immediately and issued showcause letters," he told a media conference after chairing the party's monthly Central Committee (CC) meeting at its headquarters, here.

Dr Lim, who is Primary Industries Minister, said he was issuing the warning as there were already such cases reported in branch elections which the CC viewed seriously.

"We want a smooth and incident-free election," he said.

He said the CC, the party's highest policy-making body, also warned members not to wash "dirty linen" in public through the press.

Dr Lim said the CC also discussed the party's preparation for the general election although it would not be held this year.

Gerakan will hold its national delegates conference on June 27 and 28 while the youth and wanita wings on June 26.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Barisan Nasional chairman, is scheduled to open the conference on June 27. --

BERNAMA

MNY TS