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Lim-Gerakan

CHONG EU BACKS SON'S DECISION TO QUIT GERAKAN

PULAU PINANG, Sept 6 (Bernama) -- Former chief minister and Gerakan founder Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu said today he backed the decision by his son Lim Chien Aun to leave the party.

Chong Eu said despite being saddened by the move, he respected the decision by Chien Aun who is the Bayan Lepas assemblyman whom he described as brave and having principles.

Speaking to reporters at his residence here, Chong Eu said Chien Aun had informed him first of his quit decision after learning that Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon had been reappointed Chief Minister.

"I am proud to have a son who acted bravely to follow his own principles and had informed me first of his decision," said Chong Eu.

Chong Eu said his son's action might be morally correct but could draw wrong conclusions by the people due to misinterpretation.

Chong Eu said he told Chien Aun that the move was something drastic but the latter was in the opinion that only through such action would he be able to express his dissatisfaction.

"Chien Aun is prepared to face any possibility despite knowing that his political future is uncertain," said Chong Eu.

He said what happened was due to internal problems in Gerakan and party leaders should learn to respect the views of others.

Chong Eu said as a leader, his priority in facing the crisis was to close ranks among party members and not to worsen the situation.

"Something new should be done as political evolution should be through changes," he said.

Chong Eu said Gerakan leaders should refrain from labelling Chien Aun as a traitor to the party as it could only worsened the situation as those who left Gerakan still supported the Barisan Nasional (BN) under the leadership of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said the move by Koh to apologise to voters was not relevant as Chien Aun himself can explain what had happened to the constituents.

Earlier Chong Eu attended the swearing-in ceremony of Koh as the Chief Minister before the Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Dr Hamdan Sheikh Tahir here.

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