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Keng Yaik-Lims

GERAKAN CHIEF MEETS TWO "LIMS" TO MEND RIFT

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 7 (Bernama) -- In a bid to resolve the problems in Pulau Pinang Gerakan, party president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik has met the two state assemblymen who quit the party recently.

"After meeting and talking to both the assemblymen, I have come to realise the deep differences of opinion on both sides of the Penang Gerakan.

"There are very strong opinions on both sides but I shall do my utmost to reconcile the differences," Dr Lim said in a signed one-page statement issued here today.

The two assemblymen, Lim Boo Chang (Datuk Keramat) and Lim Chien Aun (Bayan Lepas), quit Gerakan last Thursday expressing dissatisfaction with Pulau Pinang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon's leadership.

The two said they would be independent assemblymen under the Barisan Nasional (BN).

Dr Lim said he had also briefed Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the overall situation in Pulau Pinang, especially the problems in the state Gerakan.

He thanked Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for his efforts of reconciliation.

Yesterday, Abdullah advised Gerakan leaders to readmit the two Lims without imposing any conditions.

Abdullah told a news conference in Pulau Pinang that he believed Gerakan leaders would be able to accept them after they had stated their intention to cooperate.

At the same news conference, Dr Koh, who is Pulau Pinang Gerakan chief, said the party was willing to readmit them without imposing any conditions.

Dr Lim said since the appointment of Dr Koh as chief minister had been made by the prime minister and all sides had said they supported Dr Mahathir's leadership, "I think that this is the most opportune time for a reconciliation."

"As there is willingness for a reconciliation, I welcome efforts made and shall try my best to resolve (the problems) and to put both sides at ease with each other," he said.

He called on all parties to stop issuing statements on the matter in order "to allow us to come together and put back Gerakan on its footing of serving the people of Penang."

"We should immediately start working for the people as expectations are high after the huge support from the people of Penang," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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