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Gerakan to field new faces, says Dr Lim

GERAKAN, a component party of the Barisan Nasional (BN), will field new faces as candidates for 50 per cent of its parliamentary seats and 30 per cent of its state seats.

Its president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said the move was made to reflect a "continuity" in the movement by allowing new bloods who have contributed a lot to the party to contest.

"It is time to give them the chance to come out and contribute more to the people," he said at Gerakan's headquarters in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Dr Lim who is also the Primary Industries Minister said Gerakan's list received full support from the Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

However, the party is yet to decide on who will be contesting in the November 29th general elections for its two other seats, namely Jelutong and Lobak or Senawang in Negri Sembilan, he said, adding that he will have candidates for the seats by Friday.

On the Jelutong Parliamentary seat, Dr Lim said Dr Mahathir had requested him to field a "stronger" candidate so that BN can release the constituency from the Opposition's grip.

He believes that with a strong contestant, Gerakan can wrest the Jelutong seat from DAP deputy chairman Karpal Singh this year. "We have to find a tough person, a strong candidate to fight Karpal. We feel strongly that we can unseat him in this election.

Nevertheless, the Jelutong candidate will remain a surprise until Dr Mahathir announced the full list of BN nominees this Friday. Dr Lim said he had received Dr Mahathir's mandate to choose a candidate for Jelutong. For the 10th general elections, Gerakan is fielding two doctors; two or three lawyers; one academician; three engineers and one degree holder as candidates for the Parliamentary seats.

In the 1995 general elections, Gerakan had won 10 Parliamentary seats and 27 state seats.

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