

14/11/1999

Keng Yaik: We will field 14 new contestants

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik confirmed today there will be five new candidates for the 10 parliamentary seats to be contested by the party.

He said this was in line with the party's policy of injecting "new blood" to face the challenges of the new millennium.

He added that there would be a 30 per cent change, or nine new candidates, for the 27 State seats allocated to the party.

Dr Lim was speaking to reporters after chairing the Gerakan central committee meeting at the party's headquarters in Cheras today.

The Gerakan president said that the central committee had agreed in principle for the central working committee to decide on candidates for the election.

"All State chiefs will submit their respective lists to the central working committee and the final list of candidates will be submitted to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad next Tuesday for approval."

Dr Lim said Gerakan would contest the same seats allocated to the party in the 1995 general election.

"I have heard rumours of the possibility of swapping seats with other Barisan Nasional component parties."

He said nobody had approached him to discuss this matter as yet and urged members to concentrate on making preparations for the elections in their respective constituencies.

On whether the incumbents would contest in the same constituencies, Dr Lim said this would only be revealed on Tuesday.

(END)