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Keng Yaik: Time to focus on the people

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - With the tussle over the allocation of the Penang executive council posts over, the presidents of MCA and Gerakan said it was now time for their parties to concentrate on serving the people of the State.

Speaking at separate Press conferences after the first Cabinet meeting after the formation of the new Government, both party leaders asked their members to put the incident behind them.

Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said it was time for the party and MCA to repair its "strained relationship" and work together to fulfil the wishes of the people in the State.

Thanking Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for retaining the status quo composition for BN component parties in Penang's Executive Council line-up, Dr Lim said the matter should now be put to rest.

"The move could go a long way in the spirit of co-operation in BN," said Dr Lim, who is Primary Industries Minister, at his office.

Dr Lim said as BN had performed well in the general election in Penang, the decision to maintain the status quo was appropriate. "We (Gerakan) will not be dictated by the `numbers game'."

The MCA had reportedly asked for a third Exco post and the creation of another Deputy Chief Minister's post for it. This followed victories for all its nine candidates for State seats in the election.

However, Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon today announced his Exco line-up based on the previous seat allocation formula with Umno holding four posts; Gerakan, four including the Chief Ministership; MCA, two; and MIC, one.

Asked if he was happy now that the issue is settled, Dr Lim said: "I am neither happy nor sad. It is time for Gerakan to work hard with other component parties in BN to serve the people."

Meanwhile, MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said although the Exco line-up would bring unhappiness, Penang MCA members would fulfil their responsibilities as elected representatives.

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