

22 JUL 1999

Lim-Election

KENG YAIK HOPES KERK CHOO TING WILL NOT BE CHALLENGED

KUALA LUMPUR, July 22 (Bernama) -- Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik today issued an appeal so that the post of party deputy president will not be challenged on Saturday.

"I have expressed my wish that challengers for the post withdraw (from the contest) to safeguard party unity," he told reporters at the parliament lobby, here today.

Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Kerk Choo Ting, who is the incumbent Gerakan deputy president, will be challenged for the post by the Lukut Gerakan branch chairman Tan Keng Leng at the election.

Lim said the contest, if it materialises, would be conducted fairly and it was up to the delegates to determine their respective choice.

"If he (Tan) does not heed my advice and insists on contesting, the election will be carried out fairly," he said.

He said party contests was still allowed according to the Gerakan constitution to prove that the democratic process was practised in the party and the winner would be determined by the delegates.

Meanwhile, he said Gerakan would accept the candidates decided by the Barisan Nasional (BN) leadership for the coming general election and would not ask for additional seats for the party.

He was asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday calling for BN component parties to accept candidates chosen by the top leadership to ensure comfortable victory at the general election.

Lim said component parties of the BN were disciplined and supported the chosen candidate as the candidate representing all parties.

-- BERNAMA

RZS AO