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Lim-Aspirations

17-POINT MEMO BY CHINESE GROUPS NOT ELECTION DEMAND LIST, SAYS KENG YAIK

KLANG, Oct 12 (Bernama) -- Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said the 17-point memorandum which 11 Chinese groups submitted to the government recently is not an election demand as the media has made it out to be.

"It is in fact a list of aspirations and appeals with no time frame set for them to be realised or implemented," said Lim, who is also Primary Industries Minister.

According to him, the list was improperly presented causing the Malays to misconceive it as constituting Chinese demands with a general election imminent.

Lim told reporters this when approached on the matter after the opening of the 53rd annual general meeting of the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Malaysia (ACCCIM) by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here today.

Lim was reacting to news reports suggesting that the 17-point memorandum by the Chinese associations were demands that the Barisan Nasional should meet in return for their support for the governing coalition.

Lim said Cabinet members from BN component parties had met and obtained feedback the associations concerned relating to the issue and all the Chinese groups agreed that their memorandum was not a list of election demands.

During the meeting, the ministers emphasised that the 17-point memorandum should not be a cause for splitting the Chinese associations although not all of them agreed to the listing down of the appeals.

Lim acknowledged that some of appeals on the list are not acceptable in a multi-racial nation although the opposition would readily accept all of them for political mileage and with the knowledge that they would not get the mandate to run the country.

-- BERNAMA

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