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`Reject alliance of extremist forces'

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Malaysians must reject the alliance of extremist forces who are actually opposed to each other, Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said today.

Dr Lim said that this was to prevent a period of political instability and uncertainty in the country.

Such a period would adversely affect the country's investment climate and reverse the economic gain so painstakingly built over the last two decades.

He called on Malaysians to choose carefully in the next general election and reject any opportunistic coalition made up of Pas and DAP.

Dr Lim said this at Gerakan's 28th annual delegates conference at its headquarters here.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad later opened the conference which was attended by about 1,700 delegates. Also present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Barisan Nasional secretary-general Datuk Seri Mohamed Rahmat, Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob and leaders of BN component parties.

Dr Lim said as the general election drew closer, opposition parties were making attempts to forge a coalition to take on the BN.

"To us, this is truly a compliment, for imitation is the best form of flattery," he said, adding that unlike the BN, the opposition coalition had problems from the very start.

"Pas wants to create an Islamic State while DAP wants to create a secular Malaysian Malaysia. The two are almost antithetical to each other. If each of them is prepared to sacrifice their political soul, can we trust either?"

Dr Lim said should the opposition coalition come to power, Pas would be the dominant party in the opposition coalition and it would insist on creating an Islamic State, only to be resisted by DAP.

"Conflicts and fissures will ensue. A coalition forged merely to topple the Barisan Nasional will collapse even before it assumes office."

Dr Lim called on the party's youth wing to redouble efforts to engage the country's youth in honest and productive collaboration and seek and forge alliances with youth groups.

He also called on the women's wing to spearhead the drive to realise the ideal of gender equality by drawing attention to specific problems, issues and needs of women.

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