

17 NOV 1999

Gerakan-Jelutong

WE HAVE TO FIND A STRONG CANDIDATE TO FIGHT KARPAL- GERAKAN

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 17 (Bernama) -- Gerakan President Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said today the party believes that it can wrest the Jelutong seat from DAP Deputy Chairman Karpal Singh by fielding a strong contestant.

"We have to find a tough person, a strong candidate to fight Karpal," he said at a press conference, here.

He said, the party had a very strong feeling that Karpal could be beaten this time, but the candidate would remain a surprise until Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced his name on Friday.

Lim also thanked Dr Mahathir for his support for the list of candidates even though almost 50 per cent of parliamentary candidates and 30 percent of the state candidates listed (by Gerakan) were new faces.

He also said that from the 10 Penang state assembly seats won by the party in 1995 general election, only eight incumbents would be retained including the party Vice President Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon.

"The other two will have to go somewhere else, and we have another one to run (in Jelutong). That puts the total number of candidates for Penang at 11," he said.

In the 1995 general election, Gerakan won 10 parliamentary and 27 state seats.

--BERNAMA

NHA AAM