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Keng Yaik: PM showed maturity

DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad displayed his political maturity by his continued confidence that Gerakan could still lead Penang after the last general election.

In praising the Prime Minister, Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said Dr Mahathir's decision to maintain the Penang Barisan's status quo over the Chief Ministership issue was "commendable and highly appreciated".

"Gerakan has never been a party to demand for positions," he told a Press conference at the outset of yesterday's delegates conference.

"We appreciate the political maturity and ability of the Prime Minister to be visionary and to view things in a forward manner."

Dr Lim was referring to Dr Mahathir's earlier endorsement in entrusting the party to rule Penang. This vote of confidence, the Gerakan supremo said, stabilised the Barisan National and prevented inter-party hopping.

"It will not do us well if we keep bickering and risk losing opportunities at the expense of destroying the Barisan."

Dr Lim conceded the Barisan already has its hands full dealing with Opposition parties who are still propagating a hate campaign to destroy the coalition.

"Malaysia can do without this brand of extremist politics which poses a danger to the multi-racial fabric of our society."

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