

# Gerakan assembly to focus on education, future of economy

Nst 2 4 SEP 2001

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. Efforts to prepare for future economic challenges and to mould a knowledge-based society will take centre stage at the three-day 30th Gerakan General Assembly next weekend.

Its president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said during the assembly, themed "Bangsa Malaysia Wawasan Generasi", the issue of globalisation and its effects on the country's economy would feature prominently.

Several motions on education issues will also be debated, he told reporters at the party headquarters

yesterday.

About 1,300 delegates will be attending the General Assembly, scheduled to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Saturday.

Dr Lim said with trade barriers falling and the opening up of economies, Malaysia must brace itself for stiff regional competition.

"There should be efforts from now to be competitive and to continue to attract foreign investment."

Another main agenda for deliberation would be the use of Infor-

mation and Communications Technology (ICT) in employment and education.

He said a knowledge-based working force would be able to compete with countries such as China and India, which offer cheap labour.

"The use of high-technology in our industries would soon become essential...for that we need highly skilled workers."

Dr Lim said Gerakan was also bullish in complimenting the Government's efforts to boost the quality of education.