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Gerakan-Kerk

GERAKAN URGES MEMBERS TO BE WARY OF TERRORISM AND EXTREMISM

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 28 (Bernama) -- Gerakan today called on its Youth and Wanita wings to spread the gospel on the danger on terrorism and religious extremism that have emerged in the country and the subsequent economic effect of such activities.

Party deputy president Datuk Kerk Choo Ting said they should go down to the ground to explain the danger of such activities to the people in an effort to preserve the harmonious society advocated under the Barisan Nasional (BN) government.

"The spread of the ideologies of religious extremists and those of others has been subtly spread throughout the framework of society to disturb peace and harmony and disregard to the rule of law," he said when opening the Gerakan Youth and Wanita delegates' conference.

Kerk said if the Youth and Wanita movements failed to meet the challenges, not only would political stability be affected but there would also be economic destruction.

He said the two wings should spread the gospel of non-violence and anti-anarchism and convince the public, especially the young, not to be influenced and made use of by people or groups with negative intentions.

Kerk said the Youth and wanita wings should plan their activities and campaigns to help establish a united Malaysia and eradicate the rise of extremism and disregard for the rule of law.

He said the world scenario had become more uncertain and unstable in terms of economics and politics in the light of the terrorist attacks on the United States on Sept 11.

He told the delegates that there were many lessons to be learned and analogies drawn from the attacks.

A basic question, he said, was whether the people responsible for the attacks were fighting for a cause in which they believe, and if so whether they were promoting their cause in the right way.

Kerk called on the Youth and Wanita movements to use their intelligence to differentiate between right and wrong in situations dealing with ideology and cause, understanding of ideology and implementation of ideology.

At a media conference later, Kerk said Malaysia had taken a number of preventive measures to arrest terrorism and religious extremism.

"The government's action against such activities is good for the country although some have branded it as dictatorship rule. The Government knows before hand that such activities could spoil the economy," he said.

Besides such activities, Kerk said good economic governance should also be given priority to.

If the economy failed, the people would want to change the government, he said.

"Although the BN rules the country, it should also practise self-examination and review its policies to improve the country," he said.

Kerk said Gerakan had organised a "road-show" campaign several months ago to explain the dangers of terrorism and religious extremism.

Gerakan's annual delegates conference will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tomorrow.

-- BERNAMA

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