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Gerakan-University

GERAKAN TO SET UP COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 22 (Bernama) -- The Gerakan plans to set up a college or virtual university for distance learning and training or retraining of workers to complement the government's efforts to produce students of high quality in the country.

Its president, Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik, said that the party would prepare a blueprint on the setting up of the college or university.

He said that the country had to produce quality students with the necessary skills and qualifications to further enhance the country's competitiveness in the international market.

"We must think of ways and means to further improve the quality of our students.

"I've directed our Education Bureau to come up with a blueprint to set up a distance learning college or university," he told a news conference after chairing the party's monthly central committee meeting here today.

He said the university or college would provide facilities and opportunities for those who do not have the basic qualifications but have experience to pursue a diploma or degree.

Dr Lim said that producing students of high quality must be balanced with merits and needs.

Information and communication technology (ICT) and a knowledge-based economy were vital for the people to face the challenges of globalisation, he said.

He said that all these elements would be discussed at the party's 30th annual general meeting to be held at its headquarters on Sept 29 and 30, themed "Bangsa Malaysia Generasi Wawasan", which will be attended by some 1,600 delegates and 400 observers.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is Barisan Nasional chairman, will open the meeting.

Dr Lim said in the past, the Malaysian economy was based on labour-intensive industries where skills were not of a very high nature.

"In this respect, we feel that the government has not been able to provide continuous training programmes for our labour force and especially for those who want, in the later part of their lives, to go and try to obtain degrees and diplomas to improve themselves," he said.

Dr Lim said some of the experienced workers were already qualified to attend degree and diploma courses without having to take the STPM examination and they should be provided with opportunities to do so.

-- BERNAMA

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