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PBS-Gerakan

GERAKAN HAS NO OBJECTION TO PBS REJOINING BN- DR LIM

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 17 (Bernama) -- Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia has no objection to Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) rejoining the Barisan Nasional (BN), its President Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said today.

He expressed the hope that the Sabah-based opposition party would assist the present state government in developing Sabah.

Gerakan initiated the PBS entry into the Barisan Nasional in 1986 but when the PBS pulled out from the BN in 1990, Gerakan was not informed before hand, lamented Dr Lim.

He said although he and the Gerakan were hurt over the past actions of the PBS, it would not be a hurdle to the PBS' re-entry into the 13-party BN.

"Although we were hurt but for the sake of the country and unity we will swallow our pride and forgive the past actions of the PBS...we will not object to them (PBS) rejoining the BN," he told reporters after the party central working committee meeting at Gerakan headquarters here.

Last week, the PBS at its annual congress decided to reapply to join the BN and Pairin duly submitted the application papers to the Prime Minister and BN Chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Thursday.

Pairin also apologised to Dr Mahathir for earlier withdrawing the PBS from the BN.

Dr Lim also said the Gerakan supported the Prime Minister's declaration of Malaysia as an Islamic State.

"We support the PM's declaration as he had assured us that the country's constitution will not be changed nor will there be any change in the institutions in Malaysia," Dr Lim added.

He said the Gerakan leadership would now move to the grassroots to explain to them the party's stand on the Islamic state issue.

On the party polls scheduled for next year, he said the Gerakan Central Working Committee had agreed that during elections at all levels of the party the main priority at all times should be unity.

"We can hold the elections and anyone can challenge anyone but the party unity should be the main priority, I and the central working committee members will go to all the states to tell this to Gerakan members," he added.

The Gerakan branch elections would be from March to April, divisional polls (May to June), state level election of office-bearers (July to August) and national level party leadership election in September next year.

Asked if he would seek re-election as Gerakan President, Dr Lim said that depended on the wishes of the grassroot members and the Central Working Committee.

"If they want me to stay then I would do so but if there is opposition to my remaining as the president, I will want to know why, then I will decide," he added.

-- BERNAMA

SR AFY AAM