

# Gerakan backs PM on warning to extremists

Nst 12 AUGG 2002

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Gerakan today supported the Prime Minister's warning to extremist groups that opposed the teaching of Science and Mathematics in English starting next year.

Its president, Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik, said these groups were now working to penetrate and destroy the Barisan Nasional's tried and tested formula for peace and that it was the joint responsibility of all to put a stop to this.

"These extremist groups are using race and religion as their ammunition to cause disharmony among the people. Once this is achieved, they believe they would be able to move in and take over power from the present Government," he said when opening the Selangor Gerakan delegates' conference.

Yesterday, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said that action would be taken against extremist groups if they did not stop stirring racial sentiments which could jeopardise national security.

Dr Lim said though Gerakan was

strongly supportive of the need to improve the standard of English, it was in the process of gathering feedback from parents and experts on whether it should be used to teach the two subjects from primary level itself.

"Anyone sensible would know how important English is for the future generation. These extremist groups should stop using baseless racial arguments to try and incite the people against the Government.

"These people are nothing but racial chauvinists and do not understand what education is all about."

Dr Lim said he welcomed MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik's invitation for all Chinese-based BN component parties to meet over this educational issue.

"It is time everyone put all racial and religious differences aside and worked towards achieving a Bangsa Malaysia.

"Once we achieve this, there will be no more room for any extremist group to sow the seeds of hatred and disharmony among the people."