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Defeated Wanita chief Kee now central committee member

DEFEATED Wanita Gerakan head Datuk Kee Phaik Cheen has been appointed party central committee member in appreciation of her services as the movement's head for 18 years.

Kee, who is Penang executive councillor lost to her deputy Datuk Rhina Bhar by 27 votes during the election on Friday.

The appointment was announced by Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik during his winding-up speech at the end of the two-day party assembly.

"I would like to appoint Kee as a central committee member in recognition of her long service to the Wanita movement."

Dr Lim also said he would decide on the appointment of another five central committee members soon.

The party's life members council would meet on Nov 3 to decide on the six candidates it would nominate as central committee members.

On the appointment for the post of party secretary-general currently held by Chia Kwang Chye, Dr Lim said: "Chia has done a good job and need not worry about whether I will re-appoint him to the post.

"However, let him sweat it out first. I would announce the appointment soon."

The delegates passed a declaration expressing their appreciation of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his dynamic leadership and their full support for Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as the next Prime Minister.

They also called for the establishment of an independent national education commission.