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Gerakan-Chinese

CHINESE-BASED BN PARTIES SHOULD DISCUSS NATIONAL ISSUES

IPOH, July 28 (Bernama) -- Gerakan hopes that all Chinese-based Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties can sit down and discuss issues affecting the country.

Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said today that many issues needed to be jointly discussed by the BN Chinese-based component parties for the good of the nation.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's concern over the problem of racial segregation among the young generation showed that the problem had reached serious proportions.

"The prime minister's statement that the young people of various races are not interacting with each other shows that he is trying to project the reality in the country. He is brave to state the truth," he told reporters after opening the Perak Gerakan delegates conference, here.

The parties from the various races should also be willing to resolve the problem before it worsened, he said.

Dr Mahathir spoke at length on the problem when opening the MCA general assembly in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Lim said that issues like the Vision School concept and the teaching of Science and Mathematics in English in schools should be thrashed out.

Through discussions, a joint stand could be forged by Umno and the Chinese-based BN components, he said.

"Gerakan had a meeting with the MCA two weeks ago to discuss the use of English in teaching Science and Mathematics in Chinese schools and will also meet the other component parties in Sabah and Sarawak to reach a joint stand," he said.

He also said that the party would not allow extremism to creep into politics in the country.

"We agree with Umno's efforts to overcome the problem of religious extremism among the opposition parties, especially PAS. We are willing to cooperate with other BN component parties," he said.

-- BERNAMA

KAY JK