

# Gerakan sees smooth transition Nst 2 4 JUN 2003 in Umno

**KUALA LUMPUR, Mon.** — Parti Gerakan sees a smooth transition within the Umno ranks in the next few months when Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad passes the baton to his successor Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said the high spirits and unity demonstrated at the just concluded Umno general assembly was evidence that Umno members could work together.

“Party members have shown exemplary behaviour during the assembly where we can see the high spirits and unity. The pledge by top Umno leaders that they will not jostle for power once the transition takes place also augurs well for the party,” he said.

“Based on the good spirits shown, Parti Gerakan as a Barisan Nasional component party fully believes that the transition will progress without any problems,” Dr Lim said after opening a dialogue with palm oil millers on using palm oil waste products to make pulp.

The post of deputy Umno president and that of Deputy Prime Minister will fall vacant once Abdullah takes over the helm from Dr Mahathir, who is due to retire in October after steering the country for 22 years.

Abdullah had announced over the weekend that he would name the Deputy Prime Minister in November.

“The smooth transition is important not only for Umno but also for the country because political stability is essential to face various political and economic challenges,” Dr Lim said.

He added that the recently announced financial stimulus package, for instance, could not be implemented if the political situation in the country was not stable.