

Gerakan wants Keng Yaik to stay on as head

star 19/10/03

BY WANI MUTHIAH

KUALA LUMPUR: Gerakan central committee (CC) members unanimously passed a resolution at their monthly meeting yesterday, pressing for party president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik to continue leading the party because the members still want him to do so.

Its deputy president Datuk Seri Kerk Choo Ting said Gerakan needed Dr Lim's stewardship, as he was a capable leader who had helmed the party effectively.

"Gerakan has confidence in his leadership and he's an experienced leader whose services are still needed by the party," he added.

Party vice-president Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon supported Kerk's statement.

Gerakan's stance in reaffirming Dr Lim's continuity as party president comes in the wake of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call for veteran Barisan Nasional politicians to make way for new faces in the next general election.

Meanwhile, Dr Lim said the CC members had passed the resolution for him to stay on as party president behind his back but added that he would comply by remaining in the position as long as he was needed.

On another matter, Dr Lim said Gerakan's branch and division-level elections scheduled to be held in the first quarter of next year had been postponed indefinitely and would be held after the general election.

He also added that a task force, headed by party secretary-general Chia Kwang Chye, was being set up to establish branches and divisions in new parliamentary and state assembly zones created under the delineation exercise.

"We hope to complete the exercise in the next two to three months and the new branches and divisions will start pro tem committees while the existing ones will be retain their status quo," said Dr Lim.

Dr Lim said another special task force, headed by himself and Kerk, had also been established to prepare the party grassroots and mechanism for

the general election.

He said the grassroots in all states were being prepared by way of election preparation courses which would equip them with the necessary information to engage the DAP in debate over issues the latter was expected to raise.

Dr Lim added that the election preparation courses were currently being fine-tuned with the inclusion of issues such as democracy, human rights, corruption and transparency which were expected to be played up by the DAP.

"The DAP has already gone to town with issues like the Prime Minister's declaration that we are an Islamic country.

"It thinks that by criticising the Gerakan and MCA for agreeing that Malaysia is an Islamic country, it can put fear into the urban Chinese by implying that Malaysia is becoming a theocratic Islamic country," said Dr Lim.



Poser over Keng Yaik's successor
— Page 27