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Gerakan-Constitution

GERAKAN MAY AMEND CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW MORE BRANCHES TO BE SET UP

KUALA LUMPUR, April 19 (Bernama) -- The Gerakan may amend its party constitution to allow more branches to be set up in one division compared to the present maximum 12 branches for each division, its president, Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik, said today.

He said that the amendment would allow the party to enhance and play a more effective role as one of the main Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties.

"With only 12 branches in one division, it is restricting us to expand the party's role and membership," he told a media conference after chairing the party's Central Committee meeting here.

He said that all the party's national delegates would be briefed on the proposal to amend its party constitution during its dinner for the national delegates on May 24.

To date, Gerakan has 1,350 branches and 114 divisions nationwide.

He said that there were requests from its members to open new branches but could not do so because it was not allowed under the party's constitution.

Lim said that the party's Central Committee would seek the response of its members on the proposed constitutional amendment before they could amend it at the Gerakan annual general assembly on Aug 28.

He said that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would open the party's general assembly, which was brought forward from Sept 27.

Lim, who is also Primary Industries Minister, said that today's meeting, among others, discussed the invasion of the United States-led forces on Iraq.

He said that the Gerakan supported the government stance that the United Nations must play an important role in the reconstruction of war-torn Iraq.

"We are very concerned over the anarchy situation in Iraq and the sufferings of the Iraqi people.

"Gerakan will contribute to the humanitarian fund set up by the government to help the Iraqis," he said, adding that the party has yet to decide on the amount they would contribute.

-- BERNAMA

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