

23 AUG 2003

Gerakan-Conference

GERAKAN HOLDS 32ND NATIONAL DELEGATES CONFERENCE

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 23 (Bernama) -- Gerakan held its 32nd national delegates conference here today, opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also the Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman.

Present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and leaders of BN component parties.

The event was attended by more than 1,800 delegates and party veterans, including former president Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu.

Apart from the speeches of Dr Mahathir and Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik, the highlight of the two-day conference is the four major amendments to the party constitution which included a proposal for all elected state liaison committee members to automatically become Central Committee (CC) members.

The proposal will allow the current CC members to be increased from 42 to 48.

Another proposal is to allow a maximum of 18 branches to be formed in a division, an increase from the present 12, to allow greater participation by the grassroots.

Besides that, the branch membership will also be increased from the minimum 50 people to 100 so that some housing estates can be absorbed into a branch.

The fourth proposal is to allow the sub-branches to double the number of life council members to 300 and those eligible to become life council members have to be party members for at least 20 years instead of the present 15 years.

This year's conference is also expected to pass a declaration to record the party's gratitude to Dr Mahathir, who is stepping down from all government and Umno posts in October, for his service and contribution to the people and nation, beside pledging Gerakan's full support for Abdullah as his successor.

-- BERNAMA

AT HS JK