

22 AUG 2003

Gerakan-Exhibition

GERAKAN TO AMEND CONSTITUTION TO STRENGTHEN PARTY

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 22 (Bernama) -- Gerakan kicked off its 32nd National Delegate Conference in style -- by launching the Vision 2020 exhibition followed by a multimedia presentation here this morning.

The special exhibition was to pay tribute to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his vision and efforts in developing Malaysia into an industrialised economy.

Party president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik who launched the exhibition said Gerakan had adopted the Vision 2020, introduced in 1991, as part of its political agenda.

"Every party must have political objectives and direction. Since we adopted the challenges of the vision we have become a non-racial party and that has kept the party together - a unifying factor," said Dr Lim.

He hoped party members would strive to fulfil these objectives, as outlined in the Vision 2020, as a tribute to Dr Mahathir.

Speaking to reporters after the launch, Dr Lim said at this year's delegates assembly, the party would introduce several changes to consolidate and expand Gerakan.

He said the party's life members, who played a crucial role as guardians, would be increased from the current 150 to 300 members.

"These members must have served the party for a minimum 20 years as branch, state or national leaders. Some are existing leaders of the party while the bulk are veterans," he said.

Six life members would be elected to the central committee so that they would guide the party with their years of experience, he said.

These life members would also play an important role in buying or selling assets on behalf of the party.

The main office-bearers could buy, sell or charge the party's assets but they must also get the permission of the Life-member Council "Committee on Assets".

"So we have two keys. One is held by the central committee leaders and the other key is held by the life members," said Dr Lim.

Gerakan will also amend its constitution to increase the number of branches in each parliamentary constituency from the current 12 to 18.

It also plans to include every state chairman in the party's central committee (CC) and the total number of CC members will not exceed 50.

-- BERNAMA

VP MUN AAM