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Gerakan-PM

GERAKAN WILL NOT HOLD BIG DO TO MARK LEADERSHIP CHANGE - KENG YAIK

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 28 (Bernama) -- Gerakan will not host a big event to mark the change of leadership from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Friday, its President Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said today.

Instead, after the leadership change had taken place, the party would continue its cooperation with the Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties to strengthen the existing unity among them.

"No big event, no big deal. Once decided, we will go ahead as a team in order to carry on our job of uniting our people, providing political stability and to concentrate more on development.

"This is the message I gave to the foreign guests, who raised the issue with me, at the open house," Dr Lim, who is also Primary Industries Minister, told reporters after the party's Deepavali open house.

He said although Gerakan was upset over Dr Mahathir's retirement, the party was confident his successor Abdullah could shoulder the responsibilities and the people's trust.

He said Dr Mahathir was retiring leaving behind many legacies during his 22-year leadership as Prime Minister.

"All festivals have now become national festival. This is also one of the legacies of our Prime Minister.

"It augurs well to bring about awareness of our people to celebrate with one another. When we celebrate, we're in the mood to make friends," he said.

About 1,000 people attended the open house, including the People's Progressive Party (PPP) President, Datuk M. Kayveas.

-- BERNAMA

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