

14/08/2003

Gerakan's 'electronic' conference

Patrick Sennyah

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The Gerakan National Delegates's Conference (NDC) next week will be a fully electronic conference with wireless Internet access to all delegates and state-of-the art safety features.

Party secretary-general Chia Kwang Chye said delegates would also witness the launch of Gerakan's new multi-purpose card, which will have all the features of the smart chip-based MyKad and include additional information like membership status and party position of card holder.

"Even journalists covering the NDC will have to use special bar-codes to gain entry to certain venues during the two-day conference, which will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad," he told a Press conference today.

He said the fully electronic conference was part of Gerakan's efforts to move towards the information technology era and creation of a "smart party".

"The whole conference will also be aired live over the internet and can be accessed from anywhere in the world," he said.

The two-day conference, from Aug 23, will kick off with the Youth and Wanita assemblies on Aug 22.

As a tribute to the Prime Minister, as this would be the last Gerakan NDC he would be opening, Chia said there would be an exhibition on Dr Mahathir's contributions to the nation and a multimedia presentation on Vision 2020.

Some 1,800 delegates are expected to attend the conference themed "Reinventing for the 21st Century" to be held at the Menara PGRM here.

One of the highlights of conference is the tabling of amendments to party constitution, which include one to make all elected Gerakan State chiefs automatic central committee members.

With the automatic appointments, the number of central committee members will increase to 50 from the present 42.

Other proposals expected are to allow a maximum of 18 branches to be formed in a division, from the present 12, and allow sub-branches to be formed according to polling districts.

Another amendment expected to be tabled is to double the number of life council members to 300.

Delegates will also make 10 declarations at the assembly that include declaring their gratitude and thanks to Dr Mahathir and their support to Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as the incoming Prime Minister.

Other declarations include Gerakan's total objection to all forms of communal and religious extremism and chauvinism and all acts of aggression.