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Keng Yaik to speak on Dr M's legacy

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik's speech, titled "The Mahathir Legacy", is expected to be the highlight of the party's 32nd national delegates conference to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Saturday.

The 11-page speech will give delegates an insight into Dr Mahathir's political career and his nonsense approach, political will to cause changes, fighting spirit, tenacity, dynamism and the qualities of a politician and leader who has steered the country to what it is today.

The speech will also touch on Dr Mahathir's winning formula in keeping the 14-party Barisan Nasional united and strong and his leadership qualities which have helped transform and guide Umno to become a moderate, modern and dynamic political party.

Some 1,800 delegates will attend the two-day conference themed, "Gerakan: Reinventing for the 21st Century", at the Menara PGRM.

It will also be the last to be opened by Dr Mahathir, who is scheduled to step down in October. Also, as a tribute to the Prime Minister, there will be an exhibition on Dr Mahathir's contributions and a multimedia presentation on Vision 2020.

The exhibition, "Wawasan 2020: A tribute to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad" will be launched by Dr Lim tomorrow.

Gerakan secretary-general Chia Kwang Chye said the party will also launch its new multi-purpose card.

There will also be the tabling of proposed amendments to the party constitution, including 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 42.

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

Another proposed amendment is to double the number of life council members to 300.

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

The Gerakan Youth and Wanita delegates conference will be opened by party deputy president Datuk Kerk Choo Ting tomorrow.