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Keng Yaik confident Gerakan will get new seats to contest

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said today he was confident the party would be given the new seats that it intended to contest in the next general election.

He said he had been the party president for a long time and had enough experience to lead Gerakan in negotiating with Barisan Nasional on the new seats.

"I am confident that the BN supreme council will award us our request. I have gone through this discussion process many times since the 1980s," said Dr Lim after launching the party's Satu Academy at its headquarters at Wisma PGRM.

Dr Lim, who is Primary Industries Minister, said the party had identified new seats to contest through discussions with its State Gerakan liaison committees.

There are 25 new parliamentary seats, bringing to 219 from 194 now.

The new seats are in Penang (two), Perak, Kuala Lumpur, Negri Sembilan and Malacca (one each), Pahang (three), Selangor (five), Johor (six) and Sabah (five).

The Election Commission had also proposed the creation of an additional 63 State seats from the present 567.

On party matters, Dr Lim said that this year's Gerakan annual general assembly would be held at Wisma PGRM on Aug 23 and 24. Around 1,800 delegates are scheduled to attend the assembly to be officiated by BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"My speech, 'The Legacy of Dr Mahathir', will touch on his contributions to the country since becoming the Prime Minister in 1981."