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Proposal to co-opt Gerakan state chiefs to central committee

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - All elected Gerakan State chiefs will automatically become central committee members under a proposed amendment to the party's constitution.

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

Gerakan secretary-general Chia Kwang Chye said today the amendment would be tabled at the two-day party's 32nd National Delegates' Conference (NDC) here starting Aug 22.

"Currently, State chiefs will have to contest for the central committee posts at party elections," he told a Press conference at the party headquarters here.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also the Barisan Nasional chairman, will open the conference at the party's headquarters. About 1,800 delegates are expected to attend the conference.

Chia who is also Energy, Communications and Multimedia Ministry Parliamentary Secretary said the number of elected seats in the central committee would also be reduced from 18 to 12.

He said a proposal would also be tabled to allow a maximum of 18 branches to be formed in a division, from the present 12, to allow greater participation at the grassroots.

Another proposal seeks to allow sub-branches to be formed according to polling districts.

Chia said an amendment would also be tabled to double the number of life council members to 300.