

Racial issues evident in towns, says Chang

KUALA LUMPUR: Racial issues seem to be more pronounced in urban areas and among those who are highly educated, according to Gerakan vice-president Datuk Chang Ko Youn.

To illustrate his point, Chang said: "I was at a coffee shop in a village and a former Gerakan branch chief observed that racial polarisation did not exist there."

He said this when replying to points raised by delegates during the debate on the presidential address at the party's 35th national delegates conference at Menara PGRM yesterday.

"But the educated people in urban areas are the ones using racial issues to elevate themselves," he said.

Malaysians must see through the mischief of those who were using race to pursue their political ambitions, he added.

"The motives of such people should be exposed," he added.

While winding up the debate on the presidential speech, vice-president Datuk Dr S. Vijayarajam said leaders should not waste time on racial and religious issues.

"We should focus on developing our country so that we will not be left behind in the era of globalisation," he added.

Gerakan Youth chief Datuk Mah Siew Keong condemned component party leaders who exploited racial issues to gain political mileage and urged Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to forget about such leaders.

"The Prime Minister said the manufacturing industry was now in fourth gear, so let us all move in fourth gear and forget those using the reverse gear," he said.

Wanita Gerakan chief Tan Lian Hoe said everyone in the Barisan should stay united.

Selangor delegate Dr Assaruddin Ahmad said the struggle to create a Malaysian race must continue so that people from all races could cooperate in developing the country.

"We cannot let people who do not know about the country's social and economic status or even their own political objectives to blame us for marginalising them," he said.