

Keng Yaik: Tell us how you worked out figure

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KUALA LUMPUR: Gerakan wants the government to release the methodology and data used to achieve the 18.9 per cent figure on Bumiputera equity ownership.

President Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said while the party stood by the figure, it wanted the public to know how the figure was arrived at.

This was especially so in the light of the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute's figure of 45 per cent, which it retracted after coming under fire from various quarters.

Dr Lim said debate on the issue had given rise to a wrong perception of equity held by Bumiputeras.

Transparency on the matter

would not give room for any party to question the government's figure, he added.

"This debate is not good for the country as it is dividing the races," he said after the Gerakan's monthly meeting at Menara PGRMyesterday.

"The Malays feel that they are not getting enough, the Chinese feel that they are sacrificing too much and are being kept away from economic activities and the Indians feel that they have nothing at all.

On the fact that the 18.9 per cent was far short of the 30 per cent target set 36 years ago under the New Economic Policy, Dr Lim said the system used to achieve the target should be overhauled and new methods included.

"We have to achieve it, or else the people will feel that

they have been deprived."

Dr Lim said equity participation would have to be spread out evenly and held by as many Bumiputeras as possible, not just by a few.

But Dr Lim said there would be no distribution of equity if there was no wealth being created in the country. Malaysia, he said, had to rise to the global challenge and create more wealth for itself.

"We need to look into wealth creation. This means pushing the country until it finds its niche to sustain the economic growth of the country so that all people can enjoy a higher standard of living."

Dr Lim called on Malaysians to not let the debate on equity shares detract them from working together to create wealth for the country.