

■ By Jason Gerald John  
jasong@nst.com.my

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Excessive politicking has disrupted the national mission and the implementation of the Ninth Malaysia Plan (9MP), and should be stopped.

Sending a message to all Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties, Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said: "We are overly politicking. It is happening between the Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi) and the former prime minister (Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad), and between Umno and other BN component parties.

"We in Gerakan feel this should be stopped. We understand that BN component parties are holding their general assemblies, but this is not the time to raise issues, especially those touching on

# Keng Yaik says excessive politicking should stop

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racial sentiments.

"As it is, the BN government has been put in a bad light and the attention of the administration has been diverted from focusing on the national mission and the 9MP."

Speaking to reporters after the party's monthly meeting at Wisma PGRM here, Dr Lim said the Gerakan leadership was calling upon all to focus on the matters at hand.

"We have said many times that the country faces internal and external challenges, especially from developing countries with a relative advantage in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) and

which are promoting their own growth.

"This has slowed FDI in Malaysia and stunted the growth of the country.

"Moreover, the internal political issues are not always actual problems, but issues raised by people who want to make a point, and are irrelevant to the needs of the country. This will frighten not only foreign but local investors as well."

Dr Lim said in a democratic country, there would be differences of opinion.

"We are not happy with what happened in Penang, for example,

and now that a dialogue has been initiated, there is no point in arguing in the papers."

"I have not met Abdullah, but in a meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Najib Razak) and Umno Youth chief Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, we have agreed to take up any issues through BN channels.

"We will move forward and solve whatever problems there are in Penang."

Dr Lim also said the party's amended constitution would be submitted to the Registrar of Societies and he did not anticipate any problems getting the nod from the authorities.

He also announced that Wawasan Open University, which will admit its first batch of students in January, will be launched on Sept 22 by Higher Education Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.