

# Lim wants BN unity assembly

by **B. Suresh Ram**  
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik has proposed that a Barisan Nasional assembly be held to further strengthen the existing unity among the component parties and address any misconception there might be on the ground.

This would help prepare the ruling coalition to face the next general election, which would likely be called within the next two years, he told reporters after chairing the Gerakan Central Working Committee here yesterday.

"It will (likely) be in the next two years ... we have only a short time period (to prepare)," he said.

Malaysia has until 2009 to hold its next general election, five years after the previous polls.

Lim said the BN assembly could involve all the component party leaders at the division level, adding that he hoped Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi would take up the suggestion.

He was confident an address by the BN chairman would be able to inspire the component party members at the grassroots level to work together in preparation for the upcoming general

election.

He added that Gerakan has also told its elected representatives to step up efforts in taking care of the concerns in their constituencies.

Lim, who is also the energy, water and communications minister, said there was still misconception among the people on the country's economic standing.

He said Malaysia's economy has been forecast to grow about 6.5% this year, its foreign reserves had increased and there was still continued inflow of foreign direct investment.

"In spite of all these ... the people are still grumbling," he said.

He said it was thus essential for the government to address the situation.

Commenting on the Batu Talam state by-election, Lim said despite the assurance of a BN victory, his biggest fear was that the coalition workers would let their guard down.

"Our concern is that the BN (machinery) already thinks that they have won," he said.

He added that the participation of Ng Chee Pang, whom he described as the "insignificant independent," in the by-election was nothing more than a ploy by the Opposition to reduce the BN majority.

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