

# Keng Yaik: Loosening control good for economy

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**TAPAH:** Loosening the tight economic control would be good for the country as it would help businesses improve and promote investment, said Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik.

"We used to have tight control of the economy. Now we are loosening up. This shows we have more confidence in ourselves," he said.

Malaysians should be confident that they could compete with the rest of the world, he said, urging all parties to work hard and work together in the spirit of *Malaysia Boleh*.

"I believe we are on the right track," he said at the launch of a new Gerakan building in Temoh near here.

Dr Lim, who is also energy, water and communications minister, said this when expressing support for recent statements by Bank Negara and former deputy prime minister Tun Musa Hitam.

Bank Negara announced sweeping measures to further liberalise the country's foreign exchange policy, while Musa called for the Iskandar Development Region (Iskandar) to be exempted from the government's policy of giving preferential treatment to Bumiputera entrepreneurs.

Bumiputera entrepreneurs should prove their worth to get projects under the Iskandar, Musa had said.

At yesterday's event, Dr Lim also welcomed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's statement that the government hoped to reach the 30 per cent target for Bumiputera equity by 2010.