

Lim: We'll consider if merger proposal good for country

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KUALA LUMPUR: Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik (*pix*) said the party

would only consider the People's Progressive Party's (PPP) merger proposal if the aim was "for the good of the country".

He said the proposal had come out of the blue and there were no talks prior to that.

"We would like to know the philosophy and intention of this proposal.

"What is the philosophy? If the objective is for the good of the

country, by all means, we will take up (the discussion)," he told

reporters yesterday after officiating at

the signing ceremony between Telekom

Malaysia and I-Berhad, which are teaming up to develop

i-City.

Lim noted, however, that if

the proposal was aimed at getting more ministerial positions, Gerakan would not entertain the proposal.

He was asked to comment on the proposal made by PPP president Datuk M. Kayveas to Gerakan deputy president Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon on Sunday.

In his presidential speech at the PPP convention in Penang, Kayveas had said the time had come for the PPP and Gerakan, both multi-racial parties, to consider consolidating "to be a bigger voice in championing the rights of all Malaysians".

He further suggested that he and Koh begin talks after April, when Koh is slated to take over as Gerakan president.

Koh, who officiated at the convention in his capacity as state chief minister and Barisan Nasional chairman, said it was an "interesting idea" that could be discussed further in the future.

He noted that for now, the two parties could work closely together.