

**All Political Parties Should Move Towards 1Malaysia Perspective - Tsu Koon
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 20 (Bernama) -- All political parties should move in the direction of a truly 1Malaysia perspective, fully committed to moderation & inclusiveness, away from race-based or religion-based stance, said Gerakan president Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon

In welcoming MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek's statement yesterday that "MCA hopes to go beyond being an ethnic-based party", Koh said this had always been the commitment of Gerakan, that is to be a Malaysian party advocating a non-racial, multi-ethnic Malaysian perspective on issues.

"Gerakan has always been pretty consistent on this perspective and approach," said Koh in a statement issued here Sunday.

"Such a perspective does not mean that we cannot take up and address specific issues or grievances of any particular community. We can do so within the broader 1Malaysia perspective," he added.

Koh, who is also Minister in the PM's Department in charge of national unity and performance management, said in fact, "we must all view a specifically Malay or Chinese or Indian or Kadazan or Iban or Orang Asli problem as a Malaysian problem. Not as a solely ethnic problem, to be shared, shouldered and solved by all Malaysians, in a Malaysian way."

"This will be a truly 1Malaysia approach, and Malaysia will move towards 1Malaysia politics of and for the future, not racial politics of the past," said Koh.

Koh described Chua's statement as a step in the right direction, though the journey might be tortuous and hoped to see more concrete steps soon.

He expressed hope that other race or religion based parties would also follow suit and added, "then we'll be really practicing the 1Malaysia spirit."

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