

Koh Mulls 'War' Against Detractors
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IPOH, Aug 21 (Bernama) -- Gerakan Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said today that he was willing to go to 'war' against his detractors if they do not stop their "concerted onslaught" on his leadership.

"Just wait, I have my battle plans and will execute them if these people do not stop their campaign to tarnish me," he told reporters after opening the party's Perak convention here today.

On claims that Gerakan was a 'sinking ship' under his leadership, he said the party was being rebuilt following the 'tsunami' of the 2008 general election and that the process called for fighting spirit, patience and time.

"Since May 2008 till today, we have recruited more than 27,000 new members across the country and four independent assemblymen have chosen to join Gerakan because of the principles it stands for," he said.

Asked if he still commanded support in the Barisan Nasional (BN) and his own party, he said this would only be known when his party held its polls and did not wish to comment further.

On views that he was seen as a "soft" leader and that Gerakan needed a gung-ho president like MCA's Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek in the current situation, Koh said: "When you get old, your teeth which are very hard all fall first, your lips which are very soft stay with you until you die. So, whether hard or soft, it depends on circumstances. But the hard one may not last as long, because they bite too hard, the teeth will fall".

Koh's leadership has come under increasing attack lately notably from former Gerakan vice president Huan Cheng Guan, Penang Chinese Chamber of Commerce president Tan Sri Tan Kok Ping and Bayan Baru MP Datuk Seri Zahrain Mohd Hashim.

They claimed that Koh was a liability to the BN's chances of recapturing Penang from the Opposition in the next general election (GE).

Koh had countered that the attacks against his leadership was the work of a 'puppet master' and that these people were merely the 'pawns'.

Earlier, when speaking to the delegates, Koh told them that Gerakan was very much relevant and that if it was not, it would not be coming under much attack.

The attacks against the party was the work of people who wanted to see Gerakan and himself "buried", he said, adding that the next GE would be a do or die battle for Gerakan and called on all members to rise to the occasion.

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