

Gerakan to hold party election on October 26
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By Opalyn Mok

GEORGE TOWN, June 4 — Gerakan faces two big challenges as it kicks off its party election process tomorrow, party national election supervisory committee chairman Tan Sri Dr Chin Fook Weng said.

“Our first challenge is to increase the number of young members in the party by attracting more youths to join us,” he said at a press conference here today.

The second challenge is getting more non-Chinese to join the party, he said.

Now that university students are allowed to join politics, he said it was time for Gerakan to widen its network by getting more young people to join.

The party, though multiracial in name, has a membership that is predominantly Chinese so Chin believes that it would be a challenge to get more Malays or Indians to join the party.

Earlier, Chin said the party election process will start with the branch elections from tomorrow, culminating in the national delegates conference and national election on October 26.

He said Gerakan is the first Barisan Nasional component party to hold its party elections.

“We hope to see a new line-up of fresh young faces to contest in the party elections,” he said.

Asked if there has been any mass exodus of members following the party’s dismal showing in Election 2013, Chin said membership movement after a general election was a normal phenomenon.

“Every elections we expect to see about a 30 per cent membership turnover, either of members leaving or joining us after the polls,” he said.

He said after Election 2008, the party had expected about a 30 per cent turnover but it did not happen.

“As for this time, it is still too soon to say yet,” he said.

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