

**Gerakan Top Two Posts Need Not Be Contested - Chang
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IPOH, Oct 6 (Bernama) -- Gerakan acting president Datuk Chang Ko Youn feels that the party's two top posts need not be contested in the party elections this Oct 26 to avoid a negative impact on the party.

He said whether he was prepared to contest a top post or not would depend on the understanding reached and the strategic decision of the party's central committee.

"I will not make a decision now. I will first discuss the matter with the central committee on the posts of president and deputy president because in my opinion, the party should avoid a contest for the two posts, considering the current political climate."

Chang said this to reporters after the opening of the Perak Gerakan delegates' conference by Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir, here, Sunday.

He said although based on the democratic principle, it would be better to have a contest to enable the delegates to choose those qualified and capable as leaders, managing the negative effects after a contest was also very important.

"There had been members who left the party while some no longer wanted to be actively involved in party work after their loss," he noted.

Chang said presently, what was more important was maintaining unity among the party members.

"If there is no need for me to contest, I will sacrifice but if there is the need for me to contest, I will do so. If by contesting I will cause friction, I will not also not contest," he said.

Chang also urged the new Perak Gerakan chairman and new committee to recruit members and to strengthen the party not only at the state level but also at the divisional and branch levels.

"The party members should also be given training and courses to uplift their spirit in facing future challenges, while the party should be more active in addressing important issues raised by the public. This way, I am confident the people will support Gerakan and Barisan Nasional," he said.

At the delegates' conference today, Gerakan Wanita chief Datuk Tan Lian Hoe lost to Gopeng division chairman Dr Lee Chee Pheng for the post of Perak Gerakan chairman.

Lee garnered 211 votes against Tan's 178.

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