

Koh: Respond to criticism in a cool manner

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KUALA LUMPUR: Be cool-headed and do not retaliate to criticism in a hot-headed manner – that is the advice of Gerakan deputy president Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon to members in view of the hot political climate.

Dr Koh, who has come under fire over his leadership as Penang Chief Minister and Penang Water Corporation chairman, said: "You can be hot-blooded but not hot-headed. Don't even be big-headed."

"Have a cool head to be analytical and rational. You must be able to plan, implement and sacrifice for the country."

Opening the Gerakan Youth and Wanita delegates conference, he said members should criticise positively and constructively by focusing on the issue and not on personal matters.

"When it is personal, we become emotional and are distracted from the real issue," he said, adding that members should use internal channels within the Barisan Nasional.

"For example, if Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein messed up in his work, we do not *bantai* (whack) him and ask him to resign. That is not the way."

He said the wishes of the people should be raised but one should not criticise other parties to get publicity.

Dr Koh said it was easier when he was attacked by the Opposition.



UNITED FRONT: Gerakan Youth chief Datuk Mah Siew Keong, Hishammuddin and Koh raising their hands at the conference in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

"If the criticism is coming from the Barisan, which is our friend, we will hit back at the person and not the party. This is because the views of

the Barisan are different from the person's opinions," he added.

He noted that Barisan component members would quarrel

and raise their voices when they discussed matters within the coalition.

But they must make sure the issues did not become

racial, he said.

Any issue confronting the different communities should be seen as a national concern, he added.