

Pak Lah spoke for all of us, says Keng Yaik

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KUALA LUMPUR: Although disappointed with the language used by some delegates at the Umno general assembly, Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said he was relieved by the Umno president's stand.

"We are in full support of the prime minister's winding-up speech — Umno must speak for all," Dr Lim said after the Gerakan central committee meeting yesterday.

"We are 100 per cent supportive of Pak Lah (Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi). Pak Lah is the PM for all Malaysians. He is the chairman of the Barisan Nasional for all races."

Lim said despite being president of Umno, Abdullah had shown that he was a strong leader by speaking for all Malaysians.

"When he speaks of the country, he speaks of the country for all Malaysians. Gerakan supports him fully.

"Gerakan endorses the full support that Umno gave him at the assembly.

"We hope Malaysians will listen to Pak Lah rather than what has been said by some delegates at the Umno assembly.

"Listen to Pak Lah. Give our full support to Pak Lah because he will lead us to greater heights by providing the atmosphere, the environment for national unity and understanding."

Dr Lim said he was upset by the tone of some delegates

whose speeches could hurt the feelings of other races.

"You can raise issues, but you should not attack or hurt the feelings of other communities while highlighting the problems of one particular community.

"You have every right to talk about problems facing any particular community, be it Malay, Indian, Chinese, Kadazan or Iban.

"Bring it up by all means. But in doing so, you should not attack or hurt the feelings of other communities.

"Please don't raise things (that you are not supposed to). You think it's very clever, but it hurts people's feelings.

"*Apa lah* (What is this)? *Ini* assembly *bukan* assembly *hiburan* (this is not a fun ses-

sion). The party and I are a bit disappointed."

Dr Lim said the five-day Umno assembly was the main item at yesterday's Gerakan meeting.

"As a result of this experience, it has been decided that the central committee should have guidelines for our own delegates' conference.

"They must follow certain guidelines, especially if our delegates' conference is open to the Press. This is because not only delegates but the whole country will also listen in.

"Gerakan, being a non-racial party, does not use racial sentiments to guide our party's policies. We will provide guidelines to speak with discipline and commitment for all Malaysians in the country.

"And I hope other parties will do the same. But I can only do it to my party as I am in charge of my own party.

"*Tak boleh lah. Ini api apikan negara tak baik, you all pun semua tahu tak baik* (This shouldn't be. You all know such provocation is not good for the country).

"We all love this country. We want this country to be united, strong. Don't do anything that will provoke (others)."

He said he was disappointed that some issues raised by Abdullah in his opening address were not touched on by delegates.

"There was no discussion on Bangsa Malaysia, on corruption and money politics as mentioned by Pak Lah in his opening address."