Gerak Independent wants Malaysians to retake political power from parties

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 12 — The fall of Barisan Nasional in 2018 after six decades in power changed Malaysia's political landscape.

It has opened up avenues to more political players heading into the next general election, including a group of NGOs called Gerak Independent with a unique premise.

The group is a collaboration between Malaysian Action for Justice, Unity Foundation (Maju), I Am The Third Force, KitaBantuKita, and Malaysia First.

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Meanwhile, seasoned activist Haris Ibrahim, who once advocated a so-called "Third Force" to check the country's political parties, has also offered to stand as an independent should an early general election be called.

He said this was necessary as PeoplElect may not be ready in time and it would take too long to properly vet potential candidates if an election were to happen soon.

“To get this initiative well-oiled and ready, if we are to face GE in the next few months, I will offer myself as a candidate,” he told *Malay Mail*.

Haris said the country’s democracy has been subverted for the interests of political elites.

“How? By playing divisive politics, they continue to divide us.

“They continue to maintain the laws that oppressed and depressed the people,” he said.

Former MP Tawfik Ismail, who was the first to offer himself as a candidate for this initiative, said they wanted to educate voters on the power of their vote.

He said voters should choose wisely as any lawmaker they elect could technically be the prime minister.

“If you have a situation where you elect 222 MPs in the parliament, you are actually electing 222 candidates for the prime minister of Malaysia.

“The criteria you used to select your *wakil rakyat* is the same criteria you see for your prime minister

“So you need to put that high standard in order to ensure that only MPs who can serve the people are chosen to be in the Parliament,” he said.

The group accepts contributions here .

Source: The Malay Mail Online

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