

DAP chief tells why party is not contesting

Bahan asal dari Arkib
Negara Malaysia

IPOH, Thurs. — The DAP did not field a candidate for the Kenering by-election because it wanted to regain influence in its former strongholds first, Perak DAP chief Lau Dak Kee said today.

He said the party would spend the next two years regaining the party's influence in Perak.

In last year's general election, the DAP was defeated in all the parliamentary seats. Only four of its candidates were returned to the State assembly.

"It is only after the DAP has rebuilt its organisation, influence and image in our former strongholds that we will turn to the task of extending party influence and organisation to the other areas," said Mr Lau, who is also the state

assemblyman for Keparang.

However, several DAP members were unhappy with the party's last-minute decision not to contest in Kenering.

Sources said some members felt that the DAP should test its strength in an Umno traditional safe seat like Kenering.

Originally, Encik Ramli Wong Aki, was chosen by the party to stand for election.

Encik Ramli confirmed today the decision not to contest in the by-election was made at a meeting last night.

He said he was keen to contest but had to abide by party's decision.

He said nine DAP branches had nominated him as the candidate.