

22 AUG 1998

DAP-Congress

DAP CALLS FOR AN ALL-PARTY COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC CRISIS

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 22 (Bernama) -- The DAP today called for the convening of an emergency session of Parliament to fully prepare the country for the tough times in the coming months following the economic slowdown.

Party secretary-general Lim Kit Siang hoped that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would agree to the establishment of an all-party parliamentary committee on the economic crisis to monitor the progress of the National Economic Recovery Plan to effect an economic turnaround and recovery.

He said this was also to provide a regular forum for MPs to communicate to the authorities the views of the people about the crisis so that the government could have "unwavering support and confidence from the people."

Opening the 12th DAP national congress, Lim also said Dr Mahathir should spell out the "shocking measures" that he mentioned recently to allow the fullest national debate as to whether they were appropriate and acceptable to Malaysians.

On another matter, Lim said he would not be surprised if Parliament was dissolved immediately after the 16th Commonwealth Games to allow general elections to be held around mid-October.

He said the DAP must strive to end the party turmoil of the past three months to face challenges, including denying Barisan Nasional a two third parliamentary majority in the next election.

He said the congress today must elect a solid central executive committee to save the DAP from its worst crisis in 32 years.

"The congress must send out a clear and unmistakable message to friends and foes alike that it the end of the DAP's worst crisis in 32 years," he said. -- BERNAMA

MAM SK