

23 AUG 1998

DAP-Congress

KIT SIANG SAYS PARTY HAS GIVEN CLEAR MANDATE TO CEC

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 23 (Bernama) -- The DAP congress has given a clear mandate to the party's newly-elected central executive committee (CEC) to restore party discipline, secretary-general Lim Kit Siang said today.

He said the restoration of party discipline and public confidence in the credibility and integrity of the DAP leadership would be top on the new CEC's agenda.

"I cannot ask for a better CEC than the one elected by the party congress yesterday and the next CEC meeting will co-opt up to 10 members to broaden the base of the top national leadership.

"This is to prepare for the greatest challenge in the DAP's 32 year history -- the denial of two-thirds parliamentary majority to the Barisan Nasional in the next general election which is probably around the corner," he told reporters here today.

Lim, who is Parliamentary Opposition Leader and Member of Parliament for Tanjong, referred to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement in Kota Baharu yesterday that the government would study the possibility of an early election.

Predicting the election to be held in mid-October, Lim said the party would be asking for an appointment with the Elections Commission to discuss new safeguards for the polls.

On the party's internal crisis, Lim said he regretted former national vice-chairman Liew Ah Kim's statement after the announcement of the CEC election results that there would be a "major purge" in the party soon involving about 20 people.

"What Ah Kim said yesterday was clearly aimed at undermining public confidence in the new DAP CEC, and the first breach of his word to the congress yesterday that there would be a final and total end to the worst crisis in the DAP's 32-year history," he said.

Lim said an emergency motion was presented to the DAP congress yesterday calling for the expulsion of Liew, former national treasurer Fung Ket Wing and former Pulau Pinang political education chief K. Balasundram "for a long catalogue of anti-party activities and doing even worst damage to the DAP than the MCA and Gerakan."

However, the motion was withdrawn after Liew and Fung had told the congress that there would be an end to the party's crisis and that they would fully accept the verdict of the congress.

"Ah Kim would not be given another chance if he again breaks his word," Lim said.

-- BERNAMA

RZS SK