

04 JAN 1999

DAP-Awards

DAP INITIATES HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS 1998

PETALING JAYA, Jan 4 (Bernama) -- The DAP has initiated human rights awards for those concerned in promoting human rights locally and internationally.

DAP Annual Human Rights Awards Committee chairman Karpal Singh said today the 1998 awards would be divided into two categories, one for a Malaysian personality or organisation and the other for an international personality or organisation.

Asked if the committee would accept nominations for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Karpal Singh said: "We will make selection on all nominations."

The committee would vet and make a selection on all nominations received regardless of race, religion or colour, he told a news conference at the DAP headquarters, here.

He said the party had initiated the awards in view of the significant events taking place internationally concerning human rights and also due to the restraints and constraints under which the country operated.

Nominations are open to DAP branches and members of the public and should reach the DAP Human Rights Awards Committee at No. 24, Jalan 20/9, Paramount Garden, 46300, Petaling Jaya by Feb 28.

The winners will be announced in early March and each recipient will receive a gold medal and a citation.

Karpal, who is DAP deputy chairman, said the selection would be based on several criteria including the consistency of the person or organisation in promoting and defending human rights, the length of time of involvement in human rights activities or campaigns and the degree of sacrifice put in.

Family members and relatives of the selection committee as well as the members of the selection committee are not eligible for nomination.

-- BERNAMA

ARA JK