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Opposition wants say on polls chief

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - The DAP has urged Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to consult the opposition before appointing a new Election Commission chairman to replace Datuk Harun Din who is retiring on June 21.

DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang, in a statement today, said the Election Commission was one of the most important institutions in the country to ensure the conduct of free, fair and clean general elections.

He said Article 114 (2) of the Malaysian Constituion provided that the Yang di Pertuan Agong should have regard to the importance of securing an Election Commission which enjoyed public confidence.

Lim said the time had come for the development of constitutional conventions to uphold the spirit and letter of the Constitution.

He said Harun had been very approachable during his nine-year tenure and had tried his best to conduct fair elections.

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