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Opposition `won't try to topple BN'

MALACCA, Sun. - The Opposition will not try to topple the Barisan Nasional in the next general election as it is worried that the plan will backfire.

Opposition Leader and DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang said the pursuit of the "unrealistic goal" of toppling the BN may result in a backlash with the electorate going back to save the BN and preserving its two-thirds majority.

"The Opposition parties' attempt to over-reach themselves ... will not only fail but result in their inability to deny the BN its two-thirds majority," said Lim at a DAP general election brainstorming session today.

The DAP secretary-general added that a more realistic goal was to end the parliamentary majority of the BN which will unleash new forces towards greater democratisation and accountability of the Government.

The end of the two-thirds majority would be a signal to the BN to restore confidence in the institutions of justice, good governance and democracy.

On Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement that he was not free to release Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Lim said Dr Mahathir could influence the Pardons Board to grant Anwar a pardon.

Lim also said he, on behalf of the Opposition parties, had written to the Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai recently requesting a meeting to discuss several issues including the police's refusal to grant permits for Opposition ceramah.

On the Kota Melaka parliamentary constituency, Lim said the DAP has identified several potential candidates to stand for the next general election.

The seat fell vacant after its former MP Lim Guan Eng was sentenced to 18 months' jail for sedition and printing false news.

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