

Keadilan and DAP all for PM-Pope meeting

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PETALING JAYA: The opposition parties have welcomed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to accept Pope John Paul's invitation to visit the Vatican early next month.

DAP national chairman Lim Kit Siang said the meeting would serve as an important step for a multi-religious country such as Malaysia.

He expressed his hopes in a statement yesterday that the event would lead to re-establishment of the inter-religious council.

Parti Keadilan Nasional also released a statement which echoed Lim's sentiments, saying that the Prime Minister's decision was an extension of his continuing efforts to promote interfaith and inter-cultural dialogues.

They, however, emphasised that Dr Mahathir's move corresponded with "the struggle and spirit of the *reformasi* movement and former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, whose initiatives encouraged and promoted the need for greater interaction and understanding among the various communities in Malaysia."
