

02/08/2002

DAP confident of opposition electoral pact

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The DAP today said it is confident of achieving an agreement with other Opposition parties to avoid contests between their candidates in the next general election.

DAP national treasurer Fong Kui Lun said the party did not anticipate any problems with Pas, as it was confident Pas was "more interested" in contesting seats in rural areas.

"If at all there is going to be any overlapping, we think it will be with Parti Keadilan Nasional which we expect will, like the DAP, focus on seats in the urban areas," he said.

However, he said, the DAP was confident a compromise could be reached.

He said this at a Press conference which was held to announce the 'Walk with DAP' fund-raising walkathon.

Fong also did not dismiss the possibility that some DAP "old-timers" like national chairman Lim Kit Siang and national deputy chairman Karpal Singh would contest the general election.

He said the DAP was confident elections would be held before Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad retires next October.

"However, we are sure we will contest more seats than we did in the 1999 general election, especially since there will be new seats created next year under the Election Commission's redelineation exercise."

He said the DAP anticipated a tough fight in the elections, especially since it was no longer in the Barisan Alternatif.

Earlier, he said, the walkathon would be held on Oct 27 at Taman Tasik Permaisuri in Cheras.

He said a donation drive would be carried out nationwide from Aug 1 to Oct 15.

DAP members with an authorised donation card would collect money from the public during this period.