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Kit Siang and Karpal to contest in next polls

MUAR, Thurs. - DAP chairman Lim Kit Siang and his deputy Karpal Singh - who have been active in politics since the 1960s - will contest in this year's general election, party secretary-general Kerk Kim Hock said today.

This will make them among the longest serving politicians contesting in the new millennium.

Lim, 63, who has been active in politics since the 1960s, first contested and became a Member of Parliament in the 1969 general election.

Karpal, 64, won the Bandar Alor Star State seat in the 1974 election.

Their contemporaries include former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who first contested in 1964, former Information Minister Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat, who contested in 1969, and Tun Ghafar Baba, who started his career in the late 1950s.

Dr Mahathir and Mohamed have both said they will not contest the next general election. Ghafar, 78, is also expected to retire.

"I can confirm that the new list will include chairman Lim Kit Siang and his deputy Karpal Singh as nominated by the Penang DAP. They are still able to play effective roles in Parliament," Kerk said after attending a Gong Xi Fa Cai celebration organised by the DAP Ledang division at Bukit Gambir, about 42km from here, last night.

He said the DAP was finalising its list of candidates for the election.

The line-up, he said, would include veterans, incumbents and new faces who would make up more than 30 per cent of all candidates.

He said many of its candidates would be professionals or graduates.

In the 1999 general election, the DAP fielded candidates in 47 parliamentary and 58 State seats.