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Karpal: Pas, not age, reason for 1999 polls failure

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - DAP deputy chairman Karpal Singh said today the DAP's poor showing in the 1999 general election was principally because of its association with Pas in the Opposition coalition.

It was certainly not due to the age of DAP candidates, he said.

"Both Lim (Kit Siang) and I still have fire in our bellies. We are only in our early 60s and it is a complete misconception to relegate both of us to political retirement and oblivion.

"In fact, former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad retired at 78 years and compared to him we are relatively young," he said in a statement.

Karpal was responding to a report today which quoted Penang DAP chairman Chow Kon Yeow as saying that the party must think whether the veteran leaders still have the support of the people or to pick young leaders to contest parliamentary seats.

Karpal and DAP national chairman Lim were among the party's candidates who lost in Penang in the 1999 general election.

Karpal said it was the prerogative of the party's central executive committee to decide on candidates.