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Anwar top choice for alternative PM: DAP

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PENANG: DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng says Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) *de facto* leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is needed in Parliament to become the alternative prime minister for Malaysia.

Lim, who is also Penang chief minister, said DAP believes the most suitable person to be the alternative prime minister is Anwar.

"This is because all the Opposition parties fully supported him as the alternative prime minister and to do that he has to first win a seat in Parliament," he said.

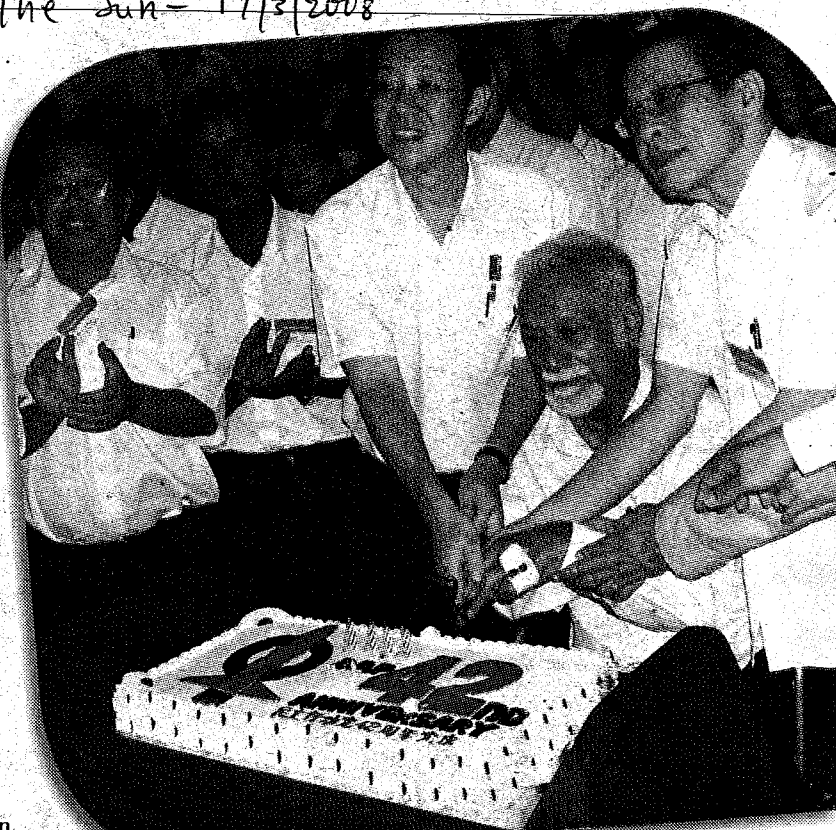
"We all hope that once his disqualification period ends on April 15, he will be able to take his rightful place in Parliament by winning a parliamentary seat at the soonest possible time," he added.

The DAP will also continue to foster a warm and more cordial relationship with PKR in "our efforts to transform Malaysia into a robustly functioning democracy", Lim said.

On who will become the opposition leader in Parliament, Lim said it was yet to be decided among the three opposition parties.

"For now the focus is on the forming of the state governments in Selangor and Perak, so let us sort it all out first before we talk about choosing a leader for parliament," he said.

An opposition leader could only be chosen after a discussion and agreement among all of the opposition members of parliament, he



From left ... Guan Eng, Karpal and Kit Siang jointly cut the anniversary cake.

explained.

"This is because the Opposition now consists of three parties, not only one or two," he said.

On the level of cooperation between DAP and the other opposition parties, PKR and PAS, Lim said this was also not fully decided yet.

"Again, we need to give priority to the formation of the Perak and Selangor state governments before we discuss to reach a consensus on it," he said.

Lim was speaking at a press conference after delivering his opening address at the national leadership conference and DAP's 42nd anniversary celebrations in Red Rock Hotel here yesterday morning.

Earlier, DAP life-time adviser Dr Chen Man Hin told delegates to change their mindset and start working together with PKR and PAS.

He said it was important for DAP to work with PKR and PAS as it was proven that the strategy of having one-to-one fights in the just concluded elections was a good one.

"So we should maintain a friendly and cooperative relationship with the other two opposition parties," Chen said in his speech.

MASRY CHE AN/WTHESUN