

Sarawak DAP eyes 10 to 12 seats in next GE
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By Sulok Tawie

KUCHING (Aug 14, 2011): The Sarawak DAP is eyeing 10 to 12 seats in the coming parliamentary elections, its secretary Chong Chieng Jen said today.

"However, the final number of seats will only be known after our negotiations with our Pakatan Rakyat (PR) partners, Sarawak PKR and PAS," he said after the Sarawak DAP liaison committee meeting chaired by the state chairman Wong Ho Leng.

In the 2008 parliamentary elections, the DAP contested in seven seats, but won only Bandar Kuching.

However, the party added another when it defeated the Barisan Nasional in the Sibuluan by-election last year.

Sarawak has 31 parliamentary seats.

When asked by reporters, Chong, who is also the Kota Sentosa state assemblyman, said the 10 to 12 seats will be a mixture of Chinese, Dayak and Malay areas.

"But I am not going to name the seats because it is subject to negotiation with our PR partners," he said.

He said the Sarawak DAP negotiation team will consist of Wong, Chiew Chiu Sing, Chong Siew Chiang, Violet Yong Wui Wui and himself.

He said two females have been identified as potential candidates in the parliamentary elections but declined to confirm whether State DAP women leader Alice Lau would be a candidate in the Lanang parliamentary constituency.

Meanwhile, Wong said the party believed that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak would call for the general elections in November this year.

"We believe that the time is right for him to call the elections this year because it will be bad for him and the Barisan Nasional if it is to be held next year as the world economy is expected to be sluggish," he said.

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