

**Not eager for positions, Pak Samad says he is 'slave' for DAP**  
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**By Jamilah Kamarudin**

DAP's newest high profile member, national laureate Datuk A. Samad Said, says he is willing to be a "slave" for the opposition party and will reject any post if offered to him.

Fondly known as Pak Samad, the award-winning novelist and poet said he had told DAP parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang that he wanted to serve the party beginning from the bottom.

"I've just joined DAP and not met any of the top leadership. I am ready to serve as a slave and not to be a leader," he told the media after speaking at a forum organised by literary group Kumpulan Sasterawan Kavyan in Shah Alam today.

Samad formally joined DAP yesterday on the sidelines of a Gabungan Impian Kelantan programme at Kampung Pasir Tumbuh, Kelantan, where he was given his party membership card by Lim.

On the discord faced by Pakatan Rakyat at the moment where the spat between DAP and PAS may see the opposition pact crumble, Samad said he preferred a quieter, closed-door approach to resolving problems, rather than making open accusations in public as some politicians do.

Samad, who is also chairperson of the Teoh Beng Hock Trust for Democracy, said his move to join DAP was not a quest for power and he had no ambitions to stand for elections, citing his age as a factor.

The octogenarian has, however, been approached before and asked to stand as a candidate in the last general election in 2013.

"But it is up to the party what to do with me as I am a slave to the party.

"Because of my age, I have joined not because of power, but to correct power. Not to seek power."

At the forum earlier, Samad said he felt his place in DAP would help the party reach Malay voters in rural communities, such as through the party's on-going initiative to build new homes in Kelantan for flood victims through the Gabungan Impian Kelantan.

"If DAP goes to the kampung and I go with them, they will accept us.

He also had a good word for the standard of the national language, Bahasa Malaysia, used in parliamentary debates by DAP lawmakers.

Samad, who was made national laureate in 1986, has become an activist in recent

years, co-chairing electoral reform group Bersih 2.0 for a period, and is now a regular figure at demonstrations and political rallies. – June 14, 2015.

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