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BN plans to call snap election, says Kit Siang

PENANG, Sat. - Opposition leader Lim Kit Siang said last night it was possible that the Barisan Nasional Government was planning to call a snap general election within the next six months.

Speaking at a ceramah on the economic situation at the Chua Kongsu Hall, he felt elections might be held before the Commonwealth Games and the Apec Summit in November, and not after as generally expected.

Lim said he came to this conclusion because Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had on TV3's Malaysia Hari Ini programme last Friday expressed confidence about the possibility of economic recovery in six months to a year.

"I was baffled why Dr Mahathir suddenly came out with this talk of a recovery within six months when the stock market and the ringgit had just broken new psychological barriers, with the KLSE Composite Index crashing through the 500-point barrier and the US dollar close to the RM5 level," he said.

He reasoned that the BN would want to hold general elections early before things got really bad - if there were doubts about the ability of the economy recovering in six to 12 months coupled with the likelihood that the pain and hardship caused would increase over the next one or two years.

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