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Dompok: State polls will not be held during wet season

KOTA KINABALU, Fri. - Dissolution of the State Legislative Assembly to pave way for a State election will now depend on the weather condition for the next few months.

The La Nina weather phenomenon is expected to bring rain and thunderstorms from next month until next February and it will be inappropriate to hold the election during the period.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok said it would be unwise to call for the State elections during the wet season.

He said the wet season would mean that people living in certain areas along rivers, would have to be evacuated, making it inconvenient to hold the elections.

Speaking after opening the first `Sabah Invention and Design Exhibition' at the Sabah Trade Centre, he said, "I think it would be unwise to hold elections at a time when the State is expected to face a natural disaster."

Yesterday, Election Commission chairman Datuk Harun Din told the Press, that it was best not to hold elections during the wet season.

Asked to comment on Harun's statement, Dompok said:

"We should listen to his advice."

"There is a lot of sense in that because I think it will be difficult for the people to come out and vote, and campaigning is not easy to do either during the wet season."

However, Dompok said there was only a 75 per cent possibility of the La Nina phenomenon occurring in Sabah.

"We can hold the elections at anytime...when the weather is good. The Metereological Department has only placed a 75 per cent possibility on the La Nina occurring," he said.

He added that the State Legislative Assembly term would automatically expire on March 18 and that under the Constitution there is an additional 60 days for campaigning purposes.

As for his trip to Kuala Lumpur yesterday, Dompok said he was in the Federal capital to attend a National Economic Action Council meeting.

He added that he did not have a separate meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Kuala Lumpur.

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