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Dompok tight-lipped over date of dissolution

KOTA KINABALU, Wed. - Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok is still not giving any hint on the date that he will advise the Yang di-Pertua Negeri to dissolve the State Legislative Assembly to pave the way for State elections.

Speaking to reporters this afternoon, the State BN chairman said polling could also be held within 60 days from March 18, the last day of the present State Legislative Assembly's five-year term.

"We (State Government) determine the dissolution of the Assembly, fixing of polling dates is under the jurisdiction of the Elections Commission," he said.

Dompok also declined to confirm or deny that the State Cabinet meeting today, which he chaired, would be the last before the Assembly's dissolution.

He said as the tenure of the 48-member Assembly was fast approaching, the date of dissolution was no longer an issue "as elections will definitely have to be held".

Political leaders, including from Barisan Nasional component parties, believe that the Assembly would be dissolved after the Chinese New Year celebrations and polling before March 18.

Another factor for the strong contention that polling is around the corner is Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's three-day visit to Sabah beginning Feb 18.

While in Sabah, the national BN chairman will tour the Sandakan, west coast and the interior divisions.

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