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Dissolution-Zahir

SPEAKER DECLARES FORMAL DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 11 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's ninth Parliament is formally dissolved today to pave the way for the country's 10th general election, outgoing Speaker Tun Mohamed Zahir Ismail said.

This is in accordance with the letter from the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah giving the royal consent to the dissolution of the House.

It was Zahir who first broke the news about the dissolution when he informed the afternoon session of yesterday Dewan Rakyat sitting about receiving the royal consent letter before lunch-break.

Then at 4 pm yesterday Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir announced his decision to dissolve Parliament at a press conference at the Prime Minister's Department in Putrajaya.

The legislative assemblies of all peninsular Malaysia states were also formally dissolved today simultaneous with parliament's dissolution.

The Federal Constitution requires a general election be held every five years and within 60 days upon dissolution of the federal and state legislatures.

When contacted today, Zahir told Bernama: " There is no more activity here (Parliament). The activities have all shifted to the Election Commission."

When it was dissolved the Dewan Rakyat had 192 parliamentary seats and the coming general election will be for 193 seats, the new one being Mambong constituency in Sarawak.

Following the dissolution of the House, Zahir re-explained that the federal budget for year 2000, which was being debated till yesterday, would have to be re-tabled in the incoming parliament to be formed after the general election.

Five bills already passed by the Lower House during its last sitting also needed re-tabling because they have not been approved by the Senate yet following parliament's dissolution today, he added.

They were the Child Bill 1999, the Supplementary Supply (1999) No 2 Bill 1999, the Income Tax (Amendment) (No.2) Bill 1999, the Public Service Tribunal (Dissolution) Bill 1999 and Sales of Drugs (Amendment) Bill 1999.

-- BERNAMA

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