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DAP chief denies making polls prediction

PENANG, Tues. - DAP national chairman Lim Kit Siang has denied news reports quoting him as having predicted that a snap election could be called next year.

Lim said the media quoted Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as having said at his Hari Raya open house that the Barisan Nasional Government would not call for a snap general election just because it was in a good position to win.

Lim said he had been mentioned as among the Opposition leaders who had predicted a snap election soon. "For the record, I wish to clarify that I never predicted that general election would be held next year. I have always been of the view that the election would most likely be held in about 18 months' time, in 2003," he added.

Lim said that was why he had urged the DAP, following its withdrawal from the Barisan Alternatif, "to formulate and implement an 18-month action plan to prepare for the next polls in mid-2003".

"I have held to the view that the next general election would be in 2003 although I conceded that there was increasing speculation election could be held next year," said Lim.

In Alor Star, Pas Youth chief Mahfuz Omar told Bernama he was confident that BN would call for an early general election.

"The election is expected to be held at the end of next year or in early 2003 at the latest," he said at his Hari Raya open house here.

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