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DAP-Election

PM MAY DISSOLVE PARLIAMENT BEFORE OCT 31- DAP CHIEF

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 12 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional Government will call for a general election before Oct 31 this year with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad leading the BN to enhance its chances of a landslide win, according to DAP secretary-general Kerk Kim Hock.

Kerk said contrary to earlier prediction that the general election would be held after Dr Mahathir's retirement in October, information gathered by DAP of late indicated that the polls would be called before Dr Mahathir's retirement date.

"We are getting a lot of information that the BN component parties are actually targetting election before Dr Mahathir retires and we know that the BN component parties have started to compile the ground reports," he said after the opening of the 13th DAP National Conference here today.

Kerk was asked to elaborate on his speech at the opening ceremony that there was now increasing speculation that the Prime Minister may dissolve Parliament before Oct 31 this year.

In the speech, Kerk said with the increasing "inter and intra-BN component party disputes becoming more intensified", there was strong expectation that Dr Mahathir would personally lead the election battle before he retired to enhance the BN's chances of a landslide win.

Kerk told the party members to be prepared for an early election, saying the next general election would be the toughest electoral battle in the DAP's history.

"All DAP leaders and members must put party interest above everything and display the highest degree of party unity and discipline to face the toughest general election."

"In fact, despite all the unfavourable signs and worries and all the odds we know we are going to face, we are as determined as before," Kerk said.

On the party's electoral pact, if any, with Parti Keadilan Nasional Kerk said both sides have yet to start negotiations on seat allocation.

"We are actually waiting for them (Keadilan)... basically, we have no problems with PAS since we do not have overlapping (seats) with them as we only have overlapping ones with Keadilan," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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