Parliament to be dissolved this week, says report
MalaysiaKini.com
May 13, 2012

Malay daily *Sinar Harian* expects Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak to call for the dissolution of Parliament this week and hold the 13th general election on June 9.

The report appeared on the closing of Umno's three-day 66th anniversary bash today, where Najib rallied some 100,000 members in a massive show of force.

The daily speculated that Najib (*right*) will seek the consent of the agong to dissolve Parliament as early as tomorrow, but notes that there are widespread rumours that this can happen on Tuesday.

The report quoted several Umno insiders and political analysts, adding that the speculation takes into account that school holidays will begin on May 28.

It added some blogs and SMS that have been circulated specifiying that nomination day will fall on May 26, allowing 14 days of campaigning.

"Based on the information I received, the prime minister is going to dissolve Parliament on Monday," a senior leader from a BN component party told the daily.

When pointed out that the premier is scheduled to visit the United Kingdom and United States, the unnamed leader replied, "These (visits are) a routine. This (election) is more important."

PM going overseas

Najib is scheduled to fete 1,000 Malaysians in London's prestigious O2 Arena tomorrow, billed as 'An evening with our prime minister'.

He is also reportedly scheduled to attend his son Nor Ashman's graduation in the United States this coming weekend before heading off to Spain for a family holiday.

According to *The Star*, BN leaders in Sabah and Sarawak have expressed reservations about holding polls during the period suggested by *Sinar Harian* because it coincides with the Gawai and Kaamatan festival in the region.

The *Sinar Harian* report also quotes independent pollster Merdeka Centre's chief executive director Ibrahim Suffian saying he "won't be surprised" if Najib decides to call for polls this week.

Universiti Sains Malaysia's (USM) Sivamurugan Pandian echoed Ibrahim's views, saying that the GE is likely to be held before Ramadhan, and probably in early June.

The month of Ramadhan does not begin until the third week of July but many analysts expect Najib to take advantage of the school holiday break in late May and early-June to call for polls.

However, the Dewan Rakyat is scheduled to convene for a sitting between June 11 to June 28.

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Source: http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/197776