

**CM: 2013 polls means 'big fight' between PM and DPM**

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**By Susan Loone**

Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng has predicted that the 13th general election would be held this year.

Lim quipped that if it were held next year, it would be an indication of a "big fight between Number One and Two".

He was referring to Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak and his deputy Muhyiddin Yassin when making the comment in a press conference in Penang today.

Lim, who is also DAP secretary-general, said he suspected that the polls - which must be held by May next year - would probably be in September or at the latest in October after the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration.

"All these are apparent with the lies and smear campaign (in the media) against Pakatan Rakyat leaders," Lim said.

"Therefore, we have to ask all our Pakatan supporters to be ready for the eventuality that elections are called this year," he added.

Lim (right) was referring to Muhyiddin's comment yesterday that he prefers the election to be held this year as it is "suitable to do so".

"It is already coming to the Ramadan month. People ask me if elections would be called during the fasting month, I said why not?"

The Hari Raya month, why not? After that is Merdeka (Aug 31), why not? By September, it is Malaysia Day. When the time has come, make it election time," he was quoted as saying by Bernama.

Lim, however, declined to confirm whether Penang or the other three Pakatan states - Kedah, Kelantan and Selangor - will hold state polls simultaneously with the parliamentary polls.

"We will decide that when the date for the election is fixed," he replied.

When reminded that DAP national chairperson Karpal Singh has commented that it was better to hold state polls simultaneously with federal elections, Lim said that party leaders can air their views on the matter.

"We will listen to all views but eventually the Pakatan top leadership will decide on the matter together," said Lim.

"And we will do so when Parliament is dissolved and when the election date is announced," he reiterated.

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