

PM: Agong consents to dissolution of Parliament

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The Yang di-Pertuan Agong has consented to the dissolution of Parliament, paving the path for the 15th general election.

This was announced by outgoing prime minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob in a televised address at 3pm today.

Once the Election Commission is notified of the dissolution of Parliament, it will fix an election date which must happen in 60 days.

Ismail Sabri also urged all state governments apart from that of Sabah, Sarawak, Malacca, and Johor to dissolve their respective legislative assemblies soon to pave way for elections to be held concurrently.

“(Elections) should be held concurrently to ensure the public is not burdened.

“It is also to ensure a smooth democratic process and reduce cost,” he said.

This meant that the only states that are open to polls are Pahang, Perak, and Perlis.

Ismail Sabri said by dissolving Parliament, the public will now have a chance to vote for a new and stable government.

“The dissolution (of Parliament) will put an end to doubts on the validity of the government or claims that this is a ‘backdoor government’ or a tebuk atap (leaky) government,” he said.

Despite having a shaky government, Ismail Sabri said his administration had managed to achieve some legislative “transformations”.

They include new laws to discourage MPs from switching parties, constitutional amendments regarding Sabah and Sarawak and new anti-sexual harassment law, among others.

Ismail Sabri credited his memorandum of understanding with the opposition for this.

Speaker receives king’s proclamation

Meanwhile, Dewan Rakyat Speaker Azhar Azizan Harun confirmed receiving the king's proclamation on the Parliament's dissolution.

As such, Dewan Rakyat proceedings including the special chambers, select committee, and special select committee meetings have been cancelled.

"Further matters are the purview of the Election Commission that would implement the general election process," he said in a statement today.

The current parliamentary sitting had started on Oct 3 and was originally scheduled to convene for 32 days until Nov 29.

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