

**Taib has 'inspiration' on state elections date**  
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KUCHING - Sarawak Chief Minister Abdul Taib Mahmud returned Wednesday from his pilgrimage to Mecca and said he has received the inspiration on when to call the next state elections.

"I have the inspiration but I won't tell you (the date)," he told reporters at the Hornbill Skyways Hangar here.

Abdul Taib, who is Sarawak Barisan Nasional chairman, said the state elections could be held in any of the 12 months in the year and that it was a matter of preparing the election machinery.

Political observers have predicted that the state elections will be held next month at the earliest and by March or April next year at the latest.

The current term of the Sarawak Legislative Assembly expires in July next year.

The Sarawak BN has 62 seats in the 71-seat assembly, with 34 held by Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB), 11 by Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP), nine by Parti Rakyat Sarawak (PRS) and eight by Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP).

The remaining nine seats are with the DAP, which has six, Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) one, and two independents, one of whom is BN-friendly.

Larry\_Sng01Larry Sng to decide own political future

On another matter, Abdul Taib said the Sarawak BN would let partyless Pelagus assemblyman Larry Sng to decide his political future.

He said that if Sng wanted to remain in the BN, he would have to apply to be a direct associate BN member as his present status was unclear.

Sng, 31, who is assistant minister in the Chief Minister's Office, was reported as saying on Nov 19 that his political future was uncertain as he was not sure whether to contest in the next state elections.

Sng had won the seat on a PRS ticket in 2006 and the party sacked him the following year citing insubordination. Abdul Taib retained him in the state administration in November last year despite him being partyless.

On the decision by the BN Supreme Council to amend its constitution to introduce direct associate and affiliate memberships effective immediately, Abdul Taib said the Sarawak BN fully supported the idea. - Bernama

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