

DAP postpones party election to prepare for next GE
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KUALA LUMPUR - DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng announced Tuesday that the party has decided to postpone its party elections for a year in preparation for the 13th General Election, widely speculated to be held early next year.

"The DAP CEC is compelled to consider the decisions by both UMNO dan MCA to postpone party elections next year as a clear signal that snap elections will likely be called by Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak next year," Lim said in the statement.

The Penang Chief Minister said the decision was made based on Clause VIII of the DAP Party Constitution, which stipulates: "[T]he Central Executive Committee Shall have the powers to postpone the Party Congress and Party Conference, State Ordinary Convention and State Annual Convention for a period not exceeding 12 months should their convening fall on a date within two years of the date Parliament shall, in accordance with Article 55(3) of the Federal Constitution, stand dissolved."

Lim said the decision was to ensure that the DAP is geared into the next general election mode, whereby "all resources and efforts should be directed towards preparation for the most critical 13th General Elections."

The next DAP Party Congress, where party elections will be held and due by August 2011, has been postponed to August 2012.

The decision has also affected the holding of state party elections for Negeri Sembilan and Sarawak which are scheduled to be held by end of 2011.

Umno president and Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak had announced on Nov 30 that the ruling party's election be postponed for 18 months.

However, Najib had dismissed rumours that the postponement was a sign of looming snap polls and said the decision was to strengthen and rehabilitate the party instead.

MCA president Dr Chua Soi Lek had on Monday said the party's central committee had discussed about the possibility to postpone its elections, which are due in March next year.

The election steering committee chaired by MCA secretary-general Kong Cho Ha would have to study the matter and amend the constitution first before any decision is to be made, The Star reported.

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