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# Adenan to discuss election dates with PM

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> Other matters to be discussed will be decentralisation of powers to Sarawak and oil royalty

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Decentralisation of powers to Sarawak and a potential election date are among matters that Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Adenan Satem is expected to discuss this Wednesday with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak.

Adenan said yesterday that he wanted the administrative powers taken away to be returned.

"We want those powers back. It is important for the development of Sarawak's rural people," he said in Sibu yesterday.

The federal government has already agreed on several matters such as not issuing deep sea fishing licences in waters off Sarawak, 90% of teachers in the state will be Sarawakians and on Sarawak companies' annual Petronas contracts worth about RM2 billion.

Besides decentralisation, Adenan will

also ask for more in oil royalty from the present 5% but with the current depressed oil prices, the issue is unlikely to see a resolution.

But above all these issues, an election date is topmost in Adenan's mind, political analysts said.

"Election is the most pressing matter on Adenan's table," they said, adding the two leaders are expected to agree on election issues and a date for dissolution.

"Many forecast it to be March 19, a Saturday and within the school holidays, for more people to cast their votes," said academic Dr Jeniri Amir of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak.

While Adenan is heading for a big win, he has two big worries. One is the urban Chinese voters, who had backed DAP, giving it 12 seats in the state assembly.

"I want to be chief minister for all peoples of Sarawak, including Chinese," he had been saying, to convince Chinese voters

to return to the Barisan Nasional.

The other is massive infighting in the SUPP and SPDP and their splinters UPP and Teras.

One solution talked about is to field direct BN candidates for their seats.

Meanwhile, in Kuching, Bernama reported that Adenan Satem yesterday confirmed four elected representatives from Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) will be renominated to defend their seats in the coming state election.

They are Sarawak Housing and Tourism Minister Datuk Amar Abang Johari Tun Openg (Satok), Sharifah Hasidah Sayeed Aman Ghazali (Samariang), Abdul Rahman Junaidi (Pantai Damai) and Hazland Abang Hipni (Demak Laut).

However, Adenan said Tupong incumbent Datuk Daud Abdul Rahman, who is also assistant minister in the chief minister's office, would withdraw voluntarily from contesting.

He said all four elected representatives concerned had given excellent service to the people in their respective constituencies.