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'GE14 can be held any time'

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak has said he does not dismiss the possibility of the 14th general election taking place this year, adding that it could be held at any moment.

Umno would postpone its annual general assembly, slated for Dec 5 to 9, should the elections be held this year, he said after chairing the party's supreme council meeting at the Putra World Trade Centre yesterday.

The Umno president was responding to questions on a statement earlier by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi that Barisan Nsaional (BN) has shortlisted its candidates for the elections.

Ahmad Zahid had said that Umno and most BN component parties have submitted their list of candidates to the party and coalition leaderships for approval.

On another matter, Najib said the government will obtain feedback from the public, including family members of victims of the Memali tragedy, before deciding to set up a Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCI) into the incident.

He said if the government were to set up the RCI, it should be beneficial to the country, and for the rakyat to know the facts and the truth over what happened 32 years ago.

"Now, we are waiting to see the reaction of the public, including those who were affected by the event, before making a concrete decision.

"We are not dismissing the possibility of setting up an RCI. The decision will be made when the time comes," he said.

Last Sunday, Ahmad Zahid said the government was ready to set up the RCI to probe the Memali tragedy in 1985, which happened during the premiership of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, if there is a request from any quarters to do so.