

Newspaper	THE STAR
Date	28 JANUARY 2017

Najib mum on Sabah polls

The Star - 28/1/2017

Talk of early state election mere speculation, says prime minister

KUALA LUMPUR: Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak was non-committal about the possibility of Sabah holding a separate and early state election, saying that the talk is mere speculation.

The Prime Minister who was amused by reporters asking one question after another on the subject, said the issue of Sabah having an earlier election had not been discussed by Umno.

"There's no decision on this. I can say that the current status is that the issue is just a speculation," he told reporters after chairing the party supreme council meeting yesterday.

Asked if he was still waiting for feedback from Sabah Barisan Nasional, Najib said that Barisan would look at all aspects.

However, he was quick to remind the press again on the nature of the issue.

"For now, it's speculation," he stressed.

The Star reported that plans are afoot for Sabah to go it alone in a snap state election that may be held as early as April.

The Prime Minister was said to have given the nod to the proposal but wanted a detailed evaluation of all the seats before making a final decision.

Sabah previously held state polls separately from the general election but has gone together with it since 2004.

On a separate matter, Najib said the Umno supreme council also discussed about the party's involvement in the amendments to the Syariah Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act (Act 355), which was proposed by PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang

"I will announce it later after looking into the legal aspects of it,"



Cheerful mood: Najib smiling as he takes questions from the newsmen at a press conference after the Umno supreme council meeting at Menara Datuk Onn. With him are party vice-president (from left) Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein and Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who is carrying out the duties of Umno deputy president — Bernama

Najib said:

He also announced that party branches were to hold their meetings between March 17 and April 30, while the dates for division meetings are from July 7 to Aug 28.

Najib, however dismissed a suggestion that the meetings were scheduled as such so that the general election could be held later in

the year.

"We chose the dates because that's the best available window to have the meetings and there will be Ramadan (from late May), Hari Raya (in late June) and we are hosting the Sea Games (in August).

"I know you are trying to fish for something. But sorry, that's not the reason," he quipped.

Speculation is rife that the 14th general election will be held this year.

The five-year current parliament term ends in June next year.

Watch the video
thestartv.com

