

# No decision on election

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## PM tight-lipped on whether Umno polls or GE15 to come first

**BERA:** Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob says he feels more comfortable not expressing his view whenever he is asked whether the Umno election or 15th General Election (GE15) should be held first, although as the Prime Minister he can think about a suitable time to call for GE15.

Ismail Sabri, who is Umno vice-president, said this issue of which election should come first had party members expressing various views.

"However, this (dissolution of Parliament) is not the absolute right of the Prime Minister because it needs the consent of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong (Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah).

"Let's not pre-empt the powers of the King by making advance statements on matters that come under His Majesty's jurisdiction," he said when winding up the debate at the Bera Umno division delegates' meeting here yesterday, reported Bernama.

Ismail Sabri, who is the division's chief, said Umno needed to make a decision on its cooperation with PAS under Muafakat Nasional so that the party grassroots would not be confused.

He said this decision should be made by the Umno supreme council or general assembly, which is sched-



**United:** Ismail Sabri (centre) together with party and division leaders and delegates at the Bera Umno division meeting held at the Bera District Council Convention Centre. — Bernama

uled to be held next month.

"The Umno-PAS cooperation through Muafakat Nasional has not been abandoned because there is no decision saying we should cut ties, whether from the (Umno) supreme council or the general assembly which has yet to be held.

"This means there is no decision yet to reverse the earlier decision (agreeing to cooperation).

"The decision still stands, meaning we should cut down on state-

ments about PAS. There needs to be a clear decision because at the moment some say yes, others say no (to the cooperation)," he told reporters after the meeting.

Ismail Sabri said he was of the view that Muafakat still existed although it had not met for a long time, and he hoped the two parties could meet again soon.

He said the lack of a clear stand had caused some Umno leaders in states like Selangor to make state-

ments about supporting cooperation with PAS while some in Terengganu wanted to end it.

"Selangor's statement expressing its wish to continue the cooperation is not wrong because it is in accordance with what was decided at the last assembly. Bera Umno will also continue cooperating with PAS, and I believe Pahang too will abide by that assembly (decision).

"I am of the view that there should be relaxation for states to make decisions suitable to their respective states. Terengganu is different from Pahang and what is suitable here cannot be forced upon Selangor," he added.

On the delegates' meeting yesterday, Ismail Sabri said the Bera division had approved a resolution for him to continue leading the country for the full term until 2023 to give him room to stabilise the political situation, contain the Covid-19 pandemic, and revive the national economy.

Meetings at four Umno levels, namely Wanita, Youth and Puteri and divisions, were held on Dec 11, 12 and yesterday nationwide.



Umno split on polls position:  
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