

Penang says won't hold state polls if Parliament dissolved today
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By Yow Hong Chieh

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 11 — Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng says he will not hold concurrent state polls if the prime minister calls snap elections today.

He said he would not dissolve the state assembly if Datuk Seri Najib Razak did the same with Parliament as there were major issues Putrajaya must resolve first before national polls can be held.

The DAP secretary-general pointed out that Barisan Nasional (BN) has yet to fulfil promises it made in recent months, including repealing the Internal Security Act (ISA) and allowing the parliamentary polls reform panel to complete its public hearing.

“Failure to do so would permit the dirtiest general election in history with phantom voters and illegal immigrants being transformed magically to citizens and voters in a few hours.

“Would Malaysia’s destiny be determined by Malaysian citizens or phantom voters and illegal immigrants?” he said in a statement today.

He also said it would be unfair to hold elections now as Muslims currently performing the hajj in Mecca would be denied the right to vote, adding that the last batch of pilgrims were not expected back until December 11.

In addition, Putrajaya has yet to answer questions concerning the alleged abuse of taxpayers’ monies highlighted in this year’s Auditor-General’s Report, Lim stressed.

“Naturally, Malaysians are concerned about public money which includes an additional soft loan of RM250 million being used to fund [the National Feedlot Centre], especially when it is turning out to be a monumental failure,” he said.

He pointed out that Datuk Seri Shahrizat Jalil, whose family owns and operates the cattle-raising project, has been silent on the alleged use of the fund for “non-cow” purposes, including the purchase of a RM10 million condominium unit.

Lastly, Lim said it would be cruel to hold elections during the monsoon season as flood victims would be more concerned about surviving than voting.

“To hold general elections now... would be not only be a denial of their democratic right of choice but cruel and inhumane,” he said.

It has been rumoured Najib will dissolve Parliament today — November 11, 2011, or 11.11.11 — as he considers the number 11 to be his lucky number.

Speculation is rife the prime minister will call for a general election by the first quarter of next year before a projected slowdown in the economy hits voters already contending with rapidly increasing cost of living.

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