

BN starting call for candidates lists, says sec-gen
The Malaysian Insider
April 15, 2012

PUTRAJAYA, April 15 — The heads of Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties will have two weeks from tomorrow to submit their list of candidates for the coming general election, Bernama Online reported Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor as saying today.

“The parties have been given two weeks to submit the list,” Adnan was quoted as saying, before adding that the order came from Prime Minister and BN president Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

The BN secretary-general also said that Umno has completed the first phase of its candidate screening process and will submit the name list to Najib, who is the party’s president, soon.

“Various aspects are considered in the first screening, including debts, and whether the potential candidate was being investigated by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission,” he added.

Najib is expected to call for an early general election soon to allow BN to take advantage of the positive mood following a slew of cash handouts and a civil service pay increase.

The Malaysian Insider understands the election may be held as early as June with Parliament expected to be dissolved in mid-May.

Speculation of a June general election further intensified last week after Election Commission (EC) chairman Tan Sri Abd Aziz Mohd Yusof said his agency was readying for polls then.

“Administratively, I am making preparations for my officers by June... but I am not saying that the election will not be held before June,” Aziz was quoted as saying by Bernama Online.

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