

**Constitution Needs To Be Amended To Introduce Fixed Five-year Mandate - Najib
Bernama
June 22, 2012**

KUALA LUMPUR, June 22 (Bernama) -- The Federal Constitution has to be amended if general elections are to be held after fixed five-year mandates, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

He said there was nothing to stop the government from holding a general election earlier or to wait until its five-year term expired.

"The country's constitution allows the Prime Minister to advise the Yang di-Pertuan Agong to dissolve Parliament, but not after the expiry of the five- year term.

"Until the constitution is amended, we cannot say we have to do it earlier or until the end of the five-year term," he told reporters after chairing an Umno Supreme council meeting at Menara Dato Onn here Friday.

He was commenting on the statement by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz in Parliament yesterday that the government was mulling changing calling of general elections following the expiry of the ruling government's five-year-term and not earlier.

Meanwhile, Najib, who is also Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman and Umno president, said Umno's membership as of June 19 totalled 3,359,151 people.

He also said that 18,028 party branches had held their annual meetings as of June 12 while another 1,863 branches had yet to do so.

In another development, Najib said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin would be visiting Indonesia from July 2 to 4 at the invitation of the republic's Golkar party.

Muhyiddin would be accompanied by 20 party leaders, including several Supreme Council members, he added.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2012 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v6/newsindex.php?id=675103>