

## **Dissolution Of Dewan Rakyat Answers Questions Bernama 3 April, 2013**

KUALA LUMPUR, April 3 (Bernama) -- After two years of forecasts when the 13th general election (GE13) would be held, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak Wednesday announced the dissolution of the Dewan Rakyat to make way for GE13.

Najib also advised all state leaders to dissolve their respective state assembly, except for Sarawak and Negeri Sembilan (which automatically dissolved itself on March 28), to enable the parliamentary and state elections to be held simultaneously.

Early predictions of the GE13 date was Nov 11, 2011 as the number 11 is very significant in the prime minister's life.

Najib, who is also Umno president, triggered the GE13 fever by saying it could be held on a date or month that had his favourite number, which is, 11. Hence, the assumption of many that GE13 would be held on 11-11-11.

However, 2011 came and went until 2012 when a new forecast mentioned Najib would dissolve the Dewan Rakyat in March.

This prediction that came after media reports on the encouraging projection of the country's economic situation, was also proven wrong.

In April last year, Election Commission (EC) chairman Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Mohd Yusof was reported as saying that he would finalise the preparations for the general election in June.

He said the prime minister might not dissolve the Dewan Rakyat as the Parliamentary Select Committee on Improving the General Election Process only submitted its suggestions to the Dewan Rakyat in April 2012.

This led to conclusions and strengthened public assumptions that the elections would be held in June.

However, this assumption was also wrong and the guessing game continued with the focus now turning to September.

The general public, politicians and analysts predicted that the prime minister would dissolve Parliament after he announced the 2013 Budget on Sept 28, 2012, which was certainly good news to everyone as it would be during the school holidays.

PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang was reported stating that GE13 would be held in September during the Haj pilgrimage season to ensure BN's victory.

Najib was also reported to have said that elections during the Haj season was nothing new because history showed that it happened in 1986, however, insisting that religious obligations should take priority over any other business including elections.

PAS which was confident that Parliament would be dissolved in September that year issued a directive asking members who would be directly involved in the elections, to postpone their Haj pilgrimage, which resulted in the party being criticised by many including the state mufti, who described the action as unwarranted.

Najib in his exclusive interview with Bernama editors and Utusan Malaysia in conjunction with the Umno General Assembly 2012, reportedly said that GE13 could be held in December, despite the monsoon season.

"If it rains or there is flooding, voters can ride the boat," he said in jest, when asked whether GE13 would be held soon or whether he would let Parliament to dissolve automatically.

Najib, however, did not rule out the possibility of GE13 to be held in 2013 if it was not held in December 2012, and he had until April 28 to dissolve the Dewan Rakyat before it would automatically dissolve itself.

Finally, the much awaited announcement, especially by the political parties contesting in the upcoming GE was made today, and the decision to dissolve the Dewan Rakyat was foreseen only by the prime minister.

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