

GE13: Why Najib is still waiting
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By REGINA LEE

PETALING JAYA: Previously speculated dates for the dissolution of Parliament have come and gone, and *The Star's* Executive Director/Group Chief Editor Datuk Seri Wong Chun Wai reckons there are several reasons why the Prime Minister is still waiting.

In an interview with SwitchUp TV's election programme Wednesday, he said the ongoing unrest in Lahad Datu was most likely Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's paramount concern.

"No one had expected that there would be this kind of intrusion from the Filipino militants.

"Even as the police are mopping up the area, we can still read of some shooting every now and then," Wong told host Anne Edwards in the taping of the show *GE13: The Showdown*.

He added that with a number of parliamentary and state seats affected by the intrusion, it would be impossible for politicians to go there to campaign effectively.

At the same time, Wong said it looked like there were still several more programmes and policies up Najib's sleeve that he may have yet to announce.

"Najib would have completed four years in office by April 3. He is a very methodological person, he likes to follow things a certain way, he's very punctual and meticulous and he has said that he wants to complete many things before the dissolution.

"So I think there are still some things that he wants to settle and maybe put some finishing touches to his favourite projects.

"I think that he may have a few more programmes to announce as his fourth year report card," said Wong.

He also said the candidates' list not being finalised yet on Barisan Nasional's side could also be a big spanner to dissolving Parliament.

"I hear many names and seats not being finalised yet. If they can't finalise it, then he can't call for elections," he said.

Wong said Pakatan Rakyat was also facing the same problem with Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim still having to grapple with the issue of candidacy and swapping of seats among its component parties.

He cited the example of Johor PKR chief Datuk Chua Jui Meng, who has purportedly gone on protest leave as no seat had been found for him yet.

The ongoing Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition, which will only end this Saturday, as well as the upcoming Asean Summit to be held in Brunei on Apr 24 may also prove to be a dampener to dissolution plans, Wong said.

"If you are a leader of a caretaker government, you cannot enter into an agreement with any parties," he said, adding that defence was a multibillion-ringgit industry with a man costly deals to be made.

"I'm also sure that Najib would want to attend the Asean Summit as a full-fledged leader," he said.

However, he said that it was unlikely that Parliament would be dissolved Wednesday, or else there would have been indications by now.

"I think things will be clearer in the coming week," Wong said.

Parliament is expected to be dissolved in the coming weeks to pave the way for the country's 13th general election.

The last general election was held on March 8, 2008 and the current Parliament automatically dissolves at midnight on April 27.

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