

Ismail Sabri: King's prerogative to dissolve Parliament

By Nuradzimmah Daim - June 5, 2022 @ 2:37pm



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob today said he cannot get ahead of the King by announcing the date for the 15th general election (GE15). - NSTP/ASYRAF HAMZAH

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob today said he cannot get ahead of the King by announcing the date for the 15th general election (GE15).

He said the Yang di-Pertuan Agong has the prerogative of dissolving parliament to pave the way for the polls, while he (the prime minister) could only advise him.

"There is not one prime minister who has openly announced the date of elections.

"Even (former prime minister Tun) Dr Mahathir (Mohamad) had in the past said 'belum dapat ilham' (yet to get any inspiration) when asked about it," he told reporters after attending the World Environment Day celebration at Taman Tugu.

Ismail Sabri said matters pertaining to the general election would be discussed by the Umno top leadership, and brought to the party's Supreme Council and later Barisan Nasional Supreme Council before being discussed in Cabinet.

The Cabinet would then give him the mandate to seek an audience with the King, who has the final say to agree or disagree with the advice given on the dissolution of the parliament.

"I cannot give the exact date (of the election) as that would be disrespectful to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and against the Federal Constitution. I respect the King's decisions and must not get ahead of him."

He described DAP's demands in seeking GE15's timeline as being disrespectful to the roles and powers of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

He was commenting on DAP general secretary Anthony Loke who asked for him to be more assertive and consistent in his stance, instead of giving "flip flop" statements.

Loke pointed out Ismail Sabri's recent interview Nikkei Asia, where he said the general election may not happen anytime soon as the government was now dealing with the rising food prices and cost of living.

However, Loke claimed the prime minister was singing a different tune at the Barisan Nasional (BN) Convention, announcing that he would not wait another second before dissolving Parliament if BN was ready.