Components given 2 weeks to submit names of candidates

BN directive on list

PUTRAJAYA: Today (Monday), the Barisan Nasional (BN) will begin sending letters to leaders of component parties, requesting them to submit their list of candidates for the 13th General Election (GE).

BN Secretary-General, Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, said this followed a directive by BN Chairman and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

"The parties have been given two weeks to submit the list," he told reporters when met at the 1Malaysia People’s Assistance programme (BRIM) presentation to 700 recipients at the Dewan Pejabat Pelajaran in Presint 16, here, Sunday.

One thousand students also received the IMalaysia computer each at the event.

Tengku Adnan, who is also Umno Secretary-General, also disclosed that the first-level screening for Umno candidates had been completed, and the list would be sent to the party 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 said. He said each Umno division was required to nominate three names but some had submitted more than three, or only one, or just the incumbent.

Meanwhile, in SINTOK, former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he feels that the 13th general election will be held soon as the situation "looks good" for the ruling coalition.

"I think it (election) won’t be too long into the future because there isn’t much time left; we only have until middle of next year. If we think we can win, we can call the election," he told reporters after attending Universiti Utara Malaysia’s (UUM) 28th anniversary, Sunday.

"If the people give us a good support, that’s the time to call the election," he added.

"Even now, it looks good," he said when asked when was a suitable time to hold the polls.

Earlier in his speech, Dr Mahathir said leaders should not only be adept at administering the country but also in managing its finance, economy and scientific matters.

These are the skills needed by the country in bolstering its management and prevent it from becoming bankrupt, he said.

"That is why Malaysia allocated 25 per cent of its annual budget to education. This is an investment for the future because we are confident that if the people have education, they will be able to develop the country more rapidly," he said.

He added that people were aware of their responsibility to constantly seek knowledge, saying that each year, the applications to pursue studies in private and public institutions of higher learning had been on the increase.