

# More quality candidates make for cleaner politics, says analyst

**KUCHING:** Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) senior lecturer Dr Jeniri Amir believes the general election would see more quality candidates being fielded.

He said with more quality, there should be less mudslinging and back-stabbing.

"There should be good political culture among the candidates," he said shortly after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak announced the dissolution of Parliament.

Jeniri said: "The timing is nice and good. People have been waiting for it since two years ago."

He hoped that the Election Commission (EC) would allow a minimum of 14 days for campaigning.

Asked on the exact election date, he predicted April 27.

Another Unimas lecturer, Dr Andrew Aeria, meanwhile expressed hope that there would be firm discussions on policies by the contesting parties.

"There should be decent discussions of policy matters which are lacking. This must come from both sides of the political divide."

The EC will meet in the next few days to set the nomination and polling dates, which must be held within 60 days after the dissolution.

Except for Sarawak, which held its state election two years ago, other states are expected to hold their elections simultaneously with the parliamentary election.

In Sibu, political analyst Dr Gregory Hii said he was not surprised that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak dissolved Parliament yesterday.

"It did not come as a surprise any more as the window for the guessing game was already very narrow. It has to be this month because Parliament will expire on April 28," he said yesterday.

On why Najib chose April 3, Hii said yesterday was Najib's fourth

anniversary as Prime Minister so he probably saw the date as a significant one.

Asked what would happen if the dissolution had been further delayed, Hii said: "It does not make any difference anymore even if it was dissolved a few days later as all political parties are already prepared for the polls."

"The general election is the most discussed and, I believe, will be the most hotly contested one," he added.