

## **General election not imminent: PM**

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'There is a mini general election fever in town. The general election is due sometime within the next two years, but it is not imminent. We are putting the legislation in place now so that everything will be ready when elections are called.'

### **PM Lee, keeping his cards close to his chest while talking about elections**

#### **ON OBAMA'S CHALLENGES**

'President Obama has very difficult challenges. He has many pressing domestic priorities, he also has many pressing international priorities, whether it is Afghanistan, whether it is Iran, whether it is North Korea, whether it is the Middle East, the Palestinian problem. I don't think that the world agenda will give him the luxury of focusing only domestically.'

'His challenge is that the American people are domestically focused and feeling unsettled by the economy... That constrains him in what he can do internationally on free trade, on taking initiatives, on regional cooperation, on being active in the Asia-Pacific and taking the leadership role which, in fact, America has.'

'I am hopeful that this will not be so because last year, when we had the Apec meeting, President Obama came and had an Asean-US summit meeting.'

'He said that he wants to have another such meeting this year. When has not been sorted out yet, but it is a significant statement of his priorities and intent, which we take some comfort in.'

### **PM Lee, on whether President Barack Obama's problems at home would make him concentrate on domestic issues**