

Israel Set for Snap Vote Amid Cabinet Divisions



Tel Aviv, December 2 (RHC)-- Israel is heading for early elections amid the ongoing political infighting between coalition partners in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet.

Israel looks set to hold early elections within month after a failure in Monday's talks between Netanyahu and the leader of the centrist Yesh Atid Party deepened the cabinet crisis, media reported on Tuesday.

On Monday, Netanyahu warned that he would initiate elections for early next year, two years ahead of schedule, unless the cabinet could work together "harmoniously." Netanyahu's fractious cabinet has been racked by differences over several major issues including proposed cuts to the 2015 budget and a new bill that seeks to declare Israel as a Jewish entity.

This came as a Sunday poll showed Netanyahu's approval rating has dropped from 77 percent in August to 38 now. The current coalition in Israel was formed following the general elections in 2013. The next vote was due in 2017, but Israeli media say it could be brought forward to as early as next March.

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