

Berri says won't prevent passage of Orthodox law

Lebanon Speaker Nabih Berri said that he would not object to any draft law for the upcoming parliamentary elections that would get the consensus of all Christian parties.

"I will not object to the Orthodox Gathering law proposal in case it receives the Christians' consensus, regardless of my [own] opinion on it," Berri told *As-Safir* newspaper in remarks published Tuesday.

President Michel Suleiman phoned Monday the speaker to discuss the Christian quartet's approval of the Orthodox Gathering proposal.

Lebanon is set to elect new parliamentary representatives in 2013, but the country's political circles are divided over the electoral law to replace the 1960 version despite the cabinet's approval in September of a draft law based on proportionality and 13 electoral districts.

Berri also said that the Development and Liberation bloc will express its approval of this proposal in the parliamentary sub-committee's meeting, hoping that a common ground on the draft law would be reached.