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Japan PM Takaichi Vows Resignation if Majority Lost



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Tokyo, Jan. 26—Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on Monday pledged to resign immediately if the ruling bloc fails to secure a majority in the upcoming House of Representatives election.

Speaking during a party leaders' debate, Takaichi, who also serves as president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), said she would be unable to remain in office or advance her policy agenda if voters deny the coalition a mandate.

Clarifying her remarks, she stated that she would step down at once if the ruling alliance between the LDP and the Japan Innovation Party fails to win more than half of the seats in the powerful lower house.

The debate included key political figures such as Fumitake Fujita, co-representative of the Japan Innovation Party; Yoshihiko Noda, co-leader of the opposition Centrist Reform Alliance; and Yuichiro Tamaki, head of the Democratic Party for the People.

The lower house was dissolved Friday at the start of its ordinary parliamentary session, paving the way for a general election scheduled for Feb. 8. Official campaigning begins Tuesday, marking a 16-day campaign period—the shortest in Japan's postwar history.