

B E634 AAE  
ELECTION R'R'R'

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KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 18/ (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIANS GO TO THE POLLS ON AUG 2-3 TO ELECT REPRESENTATIVES TO AN EXPANDED DEWAN RAKYAT AND 11 OF THE COUNTRY'S 13 STATE LEGISLATURES.

PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY ANNOUNCED THE DISSOLUTION OF THE DEWAN RAKYAT AND THE STATE ASSEMBLIES, PAVING THE WAY FOR THE COUNTRY'S SEVENTH GENERAL ELECTION 11 MONTHS BEFORE THE EXPIRY OF THE TERM OF THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT.

ABOUT SEVEN MILLION MALAYSIANS ARE ELIGIBLE TO CHOOSE REPRESENTATIVES TO THE DEWAN RAKYAT AND THE 11 STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA.

THE DEWAN RAKYAT NOW HAS 177 SEATS, AN INCREASE OF 23, WHILE THE 11 STATE ASSEMBLIES HAVE A TOTAL OF 351 SEATS, 39 MORE THAN IN THE LAST ELECTION IN 1982.

POLLING IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA AND IN THE FEDERAL TERRITORY OF LABUAN WOULD BE ON AUG 3. IN SABAH AND SARAWAK, WHERE ONLY PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS ARE BEING HELD, VOTING WOULD BE STAGGERED OVER TWO DAYS FROM AUG 2. -- MORE

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B E641 AAE  
ELECTION 2 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

NOMINATION DAY FOR BOTH PENINSULAR MALAYSIA AND SABAH AND SARAWAK HAS BEEN FIXED FOR THURSDAY (JULY 24).

THE DATES WERE ANNOUNCED BY ELECTION COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TAN SRI HAJI ABDUL KADIR TALIB SOON AFTER THE PRIME MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT.

TAN SRI KADIR SAID THAT THE WRIT AND NOTICE OF THE ELECTION WOULD BE ISSUED TOMORROW.

HE SAID THAT FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE MENTERIS BESAR AND CHIEF MINISTERS OF ALL STATES, EXCEPT SABAH AND SARAWAK, ADVISED THE RULERS AND THE YANG DIPERTUAS NEGERI TO DISSOLVE THE STATE ASSEMBLIES TOMORROW.

A TOTAL OF 6,964,960 PEOPLE BASED ON THE 1985 ELECTORAL ROLLS ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE ELECTION.

TAN SRI KADIR SAID THAT THE CURRENT VOTER REGISTRATION EXERCISE SCHEDULED TO END ON JULY 27 HAD BEEN SUSPENDED AND WOULD BE RESUMED AT A DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER. -- MORE

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ELECTION 3 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

HE SAID THAT THE ELECTION COMMISSION WAS ALLOCATED \$11.5 MILLION TO CONDUCT THE ELECTION.

ON PILGRIMS NOW PERFORMING THE HAJ IN THE HOLY LAND, TAN SRI KADIR SAID THE ELECTION COMMISSION WAS NOT MAKING ANY PROVISION FOR THEM TO VOTE.

HE SAID THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR THEM TO TAKE PART IN THE ELECTION AS THEY WERE ON THE MOVE.

THERE ARE ABOUT 25,000 MALAYSIANS PERFORMING THE HAJ THIS SEASON.

ON POSTAL BALLOTS, HE SAID HE DID NOT FORESEE ANY PROBLEMS ALTHOUGH THE PERIOD BETWEEN NOMINATION DAY AND POLLING DAY WAS RATHER SHORT.

THOSE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE BY POST COMPRISE STUDENTS AND GOVERNMENT STAFF SERVING OVERSEAS AND POLICE AND ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL.

THEIR BALLOT PAPERS MUST REACH THE COMMISSION BEFORE 5 PM ON AUG 3.

FOLLOWING ARE THE NUMBER OF VOTERS ACCORDING TO STATES:

PERLIS (85,394), KEDAH (598,594), KELANTAN (469,828), TERENGGANU (273,345), PULAU PINANG (522,194), PERAK (954,180), PAHANG (380,979), SELANGOR (763,914).

THE FEDERAL TERRITORY OF KUALA LUMPUR (473,640), NEGERI SEMBILAN (298,660), MELAKA (242,913), JOHOR (858,819), THE FEDERAL TERRITORY OF LABUAN (12,171), SABAH (423,097) DAN SARAWAK (607,232). -- BERNAMA 2123MST 18 07 86