

ELECTION - DISSOLVED

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KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 4 (BERNAMA) -- THE DEWAN RAKYAT AND STATE ASSEMBLIES, EXCEPT FOR THE SABAH AND SARAWAK STATE LEGISLATURES, WILL BE DISSOLVED TOMORROW TO PAVE THE WAY FOR THE EIGHTH GENERAL ELECTION.

PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, ANNOUNCED THIS TODAY AFTER CHAIRING A MEETING OF HEADS OF COMPONENT PARTIES OF BARISAN NASIONAL IN MENARA DATO ONN AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE HERE.

HE SAID THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG SULTAN AZLAN SHAH HAD GIVEN HIS CONSENT TO THE DISSOLUTION OF THE DEWAN RAKYAT WHILE ALL MENTERIS BESAR AND CHIEF MINISTERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO HAVE THEIR RESPECTIVE STATE ASSEMBLIES DISSOLVED THE SAME DAY.

THE ELECTION COMMISSION WILL MEET TO FIX THE DATES FOR NOMINATION AND POLLING.

A TOTAL OF 180 PARLIAMENTARY SEATS AND 351 STATE ASSEMBLY SEATS WILL BE CONTESTED THIS TIME.

A BREAKDOWN OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SEATS ARE PERLIS (2), KEDAH (14), PULAU PINANG (11), PERAK (23), SELANGOR (14), NEGERI SEMBILAN (7), MELAKA (5), JOHOR (18), PAHANG (10), TERENGGANU (8), KELANTAN (13), SARAWAK (27), SABAH (20), KUALA LUMPUR FEDERAL TERRITORY (7) AND LABUAN FEDERAL TERRITORY (1).

THE TERM OF THE CURRENT PARLIAMENT ONLY EXPIRES IN OCTOBER NEXT YEAR.

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THE GENERAL ELECTION THIS TIME WILL SEE A NEW PROCESS OF VOTE COUNTING WHICH WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE INDIVIDUAL POLLING CENTRES INSTEAD OF AT COUNTING CENTRES.

THE NEW METHOD, USED IN THE KIJAL STATE BY-ELECTION IN TERENGGANU AND THE SABAH STATE ELECTION IN JULY, IS EXPECTED TO SPEED UP RESULTS OF THE ELECTION.

BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) HAS 133 SEATS IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT AND 287 STATE ASSEMBLY SEATS.

IN THE 1986 GENERAL ELECTION, BN WON 148 OF THE 177 PARLIAMENTARY SEATS IT CONTESTED AND 299 STATE SEATS. THE NUMBER WAS REDUCED WHEN SEVERAL OF ITS ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES LEFT TO FORM PARTI SEMANGAT 46 AND PARTI HIBSUL MUSLIMIN (HAMIM) LEFT BN. -- MORE

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ELECTION - DISSOLVE 3 KUALA LUMPUR

COOPERATION AMONG THE OPPOSITION PARTIES LIKE DAP, PAS AND SEMANGAT 46 LED BY TENGGU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH, IS EXPECTED TO POSE STIFF COMPETITION FOR BN THIS TIME AROUND.

OF THE 44 PARLIAMENTARY SEATS HELD BY THE OPPOSITION, SEMANGAT 46 HAS 12, DAP (24), PAS (1), ANGKATAN KEADILAN RAKYAT (AKAR) (1), PERMAS (1), HAMIM (1), ALL MALAYSIAN INDIAN PROGRESSIVE FRONT (IPF) (1) WHILE INDEPENDENTS HAVE THREE.

THE PRIME MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY END MONTHS OF SPECULATION ON WHEN THE GENERAL ELECTION WOULD BE HELD. -- BERNAMA