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EC-Election

EC'S PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY APRIL 2004

IPOH, May 26 (Bernama) -- The Election Commission (EC) expects all its preparations for the General Election to be completed by April next year, its Secretary Datuk Wan Ahmad Wan Omar said today.

He said the preparations included the redelineation of electoral boundaries and training for 130,000 election staff.

The projection was made after taking into account all aspects such as the year-end holidays and the fasting month, he said after briefing Perak Barisan Nasional leaders on amendments to the Election Laws and Regulations.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would table a motion in Parliament on June 23 to amend the Federal Constitution to provide for the new constituencies to be incorporated.

He said this was a follow-up to the approval by Parliament of the Election Bill 2003 which provided for the redelineation of electoral boundaries involving the increase in the number of parliamentary constituencies from 194 to 219.

Wan Ahmad said the briefing for government parties at central level had begun on May 21 while that for the opposition parties would be held for the second time in Kuala Lumpur on June 5.

"Kedah PAS has requested for a briefing and this will be held within these two weeks," he added.

Wan Ahmad also said the EC expected to be given the power to transfer voters to constituencies according to the addresses in the Identity Cards within the next two months.

He said the new powers under Article 22A, Registration of Voter Regulations were being studied by the Attorney-General before being presented to the Cabinet.

"Under the new law, we will send letters to the voters according to their new addresses and also to the address in their Identity Cards. If there is no proof that they are residing at their new addresses, then we will shift them to their old addresses," he said.

-- BERNAMA

AR AR AAM