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Election Commission to be ready for polls by June

PUTRAJAYA, Mon. - The Election Commission will be ready to conduct a general election by late June, its chairman Datuk Abdul Rashid Abdul Rahman said today.

The commission was technically prepared at the moment but would have to recruit and train more than 133,000 temporary staff before the machinery could be put in motion.

"We will be 100 per cent ready by late June," he said today.

Rashid was speaking to reporters after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's working visit to the Commission headquarters here this afternoon.

Dr Mahathir was briefed on the EC's preparations for the general election, and electronic voting.

"We demonstrated the electronic voting system to Dr Mahathir but I don't think the system will be implemented just yet. We have to ensure the entire nation is linked up first," Rashid said.

He said that Dr Mahathir had advised the EC to do whatever that was necessary to clean up the electoral rolls.

Asked about the possibility of the general election being held earlier than October, Abdul Rashid said the EC would be prepared by June.

"In fact we were talking about that with Dr Mahathir this morning, but he stood by the earlier indication that there would not be a general election before he leaves office in October. We are comfortable with that."

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