

Tenang by-election on Jan 30
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The Election Commission announced today that the Tenang state constituency will go to the polls on Jan 30, the first by-election in Johor since the 2008 general election.

It also fixed Jan 22 as nomination day, making it an eight-day campaign period.

EC chairperson Abdul Aziz Mohd Yusof (right in pix) made the announcement for the country's 14th by-election after chairing a meeting at the commission's headquarters in Putrajaya.

The Tenang seat, which is one of two state seats under the Labis parliamentary constituency, fell vacant following the death of its assemblyperson Sulaiman Taha on Dec 17.

Sulaiman, 59, a two-term assemblyperson, died from complications related to diabetes at the Ampang Puteri Specialist Hospital.

In the 2008 election, he polled 6,367 votes, recording a 2,492-vote majority.

Sulaiman is the 11th elected representative to have died since the March 8, 2008 polls.

Three other by-elections were called as a result of resignations - Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail (Permatang Pauh, August 2008), V Arumugam (Bukit Selambau, April 2009) and Mohammad Fairus Khairuddin (Penanti, May 2009).

Could be the last by-election before next GE

Abdul Aziz also named Labis sub-district assistant district head Md Asri Amir as the returning officer. Md Asri has had experience in the 2008 general election.

The racial breakdown of voters in the Tenang seat is 7,014 Malay voters (47.54 percent), Chinese 5,766 (39.08 percent), Indians 1,780 (12.07 percent), Bumi Sabah 6 (0.04 percent), Bumi Sarawak 5 (0.03 percent) and Orang Asli 171 (1.16 percent).

The EC chief also gave the breakdown in age groups, with 24.4 percent of the voters being between 40 and 49 years, followed by 22.2 percent of them in the 30-39 age group.

"There are 13 voters who are above 100 years old, with the oldest voter being 110 years old," Abdul Aziz added. Men make up 49 percent or 7,230 of the voters and women, 51 percent or 7,253.

He hoped the 14th by-election would be carried out in an orderly manner, and that this would be the last one before the next general election.

"With the name Tenang (peaceful), I hope this by-election will be held in a proper and peaceful manner, with no altercations," he said.

If there was any death of an MP after April 21, 2011, he added, no by-election would be called. As for the state seats, it would depend on when the respective states began their legislative assembly sittings.

PAS is slated to represent Pakatan Rakyat in this by-election, as announced by Opposition Leader Anwar Ibrahim during the second Pakatan Rakyat convention last Sunday.

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