

## **Malaysiakini goes free from tomorrow for GE13!**

**MalaysiaKini.com**

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**By Kuek Ser Kuang Keng**

Leading web news portal Malaysiakini will be available free for all to read from tomorrow.

"This is in keeping with the spirit of democracy, for we believe that voting is a major responsibility of every citizen," Malaysiakini chief executive officer Premesh Chandran said today.

"Malaysians should have access to election campaign information before they vote. Indeed, citizens should make an informed decision on the government they want when they go to the ballot box."

Chandran said Malaysiakini intended to play a key role in providing information to Malaysian voters. The site had also gone free during the 2008 general election.

"We are going free for two other reasons. An avalanche of advertising will hit the website during this period and it is bound to upset our paying subscribers.

"However, the extra revenue will help compensate for the loss in subscription revenue and support the cost of sending our journalists nationwide to cover news during this crucial period.

"Secondly, we expect Malaysiakini servers to come under attack again during the election campaign, and doing away with the subscription will ease our efforts in overcoming these attacks," he added.

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In the next few weeks, readers can expect blow-by-blow accounts of the election campaign as well as in-depth analyses on voting trends in all four languages in Malaysiakini.

"In addition, KiniTV.com will give viewers ringside seats in the campaign. We hope you will share our news and videos with your friends," Chandran said.

On election night, Malaysiakini aims to be the first to report election results in real time.

"With our journalists based at all the key seats and clued in to the counting process, we will let you know who shall govern Malaysia after May 5," he said.

Apart from [www.malaysiakini.com](http://www.malaysiakini.com), readers are urged to bookmark [www.facebook.com/malaysiakini](https://www.facebook.com/malaysiakini) and [www.twitter.com/malaysiakini](https://www.twitter.com/malaysiakini) to make sure they get access to the latest news from Malaysiakini.

Mobile users can access the website through [m.malaysiakini.com](http://m.malaysiakini.com).

To compensate the paying subscribers, Chandran said, they will be given an extension to their current subscription period equal to the days that Malaysiakini is available free.

"We do appreciate all the support we receive from our subscribers, and we believe that you will understand the need for Malaysiakini to go free during this critical period. We shall return as a subscription site shortly after polling day," Premesh added.

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