

**Kajang by-election set for March 23**  
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The Election Commission (EC) has set March 23 as the date for the Kajang state by-election, with nominations to be filed on March 11.

This provides a 12-day campaign period for the first by-election of the year.

Advance voting will be conducted on March 19, EC chairperson Abdul Aziz Mohd Yusof told a press conference at the EC headquarters today.

Abdul Aziz attributed the lengthy waiting period for the by-election to heavy preparations which the EC must make.

These include preparing a complete and clean voter roll, identifying suitable voting, nomination and vote-tallying centres, and conducting training to prevent repeat of past errors such as in the filling out of 'Borang 13' and 'Borang 14'.

Abdul Aziz also said time was needed to arrange for indelible ink supply and to have it brought back.

On the by-election, 18 polling stations will be opened for the 39,278 voters eligible to cast their ballots, based on the electoral roll gazetted late last year.

The by-election will involve expenditure of about RM1.6 million, said Abdul Aziz, adding that the EC has tried to keep the cost as low as possible.

The Kajang Municipal Council's sports complex in Bandar Baru Bangi will be both the nomination and polling centre.

Malays make up 48.5 percent of the voters in the constituency, followed by Chinese (40.28 percent) and Indians (10.29 percent).

PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim will contest the polls in a bid to enter the Selangor state assembly held by Pakatan Rakyat.

The Kajang seat was vacated by PKR's Lee Chin Cheh on Jan 27 in a move engineered by the party to propel Anwar into a more active role within the state government.

The move is seen as paving the way for Anwar to eventually take over from Abdul Khalid Ibrahim as Selangor menteri besar.

This 'Kajang Move' is also a step toward using Selangor as the launchpad in Pakatan's quest for federal power and to end the feud between Khalid and PKR deputy president Azmin Ali.

The BN has yet to decide on its candidate for the seat, which has traditionally been contested by the MCA. However, Umno is eyeing the seat this time around.

This will be the third by-election in the eight months since the 13th general election concluded on May 5 last year.

It was preceded by the Kuala Besut state by-election in Terengganu and the Sungai Limau by-election in Kedah. BN and PAS each won a seat in these by-elections.

The Kajang by-election is the first since the 13th general election to be caused by voluntary resignation. The other were caused by the death of the representatives.

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