

Sarawak Votes On April 16
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KUCHING -- Sarawak will go to the polls on April 16, Election Commission (EC) chairman Abdul Aziz Mohd Yusof said.

The nomination day is on April 6.

Abdul Aziz told a news conference here that the EC would be using the 2010 electoral roll, to be gazetted on Friday, containing the names of 979,796 electorates, comprising 961,433 ordinary voters and 18,363 postal voters.

He reminded the electorates to check their polling centres and streams either through the EC website or via the short message service or by contacting the EC directly.

The EC, he said, would deploy 24,379 election workers and officers including 71 returning officers, to be stationed in 1,740 polling centres and 2,561 polling streams.

The EC is expected to spend RM50 million to conduct the 10th state election, including for logistical needs in the vast state, namely the use of two light aircraft, 24 helicopters, 63 speedboats, 919 longboats and 4,124 four-wheel-drive vehicles.

The EC will also ensure all vote-counting centres are equipped with communications facilities.

"The EC will also ask assistance from police in transporting the ballot boxes, especially in remote areas," he said.

He said the EC would also refer to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) any reports of corruption, saying the MACC was more adept in handling such issues.

"The MACC is given the power to monitor any activities to ensure all allegations (of corrupt practices) are investigated," he said.

(Bernama)