

Penang Mosque Elections Postponed
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GEORGE TOWN -- The Penang government has postponed elections for mosque committees for the 2012-2013 term, which were scheduled to take place today.

State Religious Affairs, Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Committee chairman Abdul Malik Kassim said the decision to postpone the elections was made after Penang Islamic Religious Council president Ellias Zakaria's audience with Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin at Istana Negara on Friday.

"I have been informed by Ellias by telephone that the Yang di-Pertuan Agong asked for the elections to be postponed for the time being," he said in a statement here.

Earlier yesterday, Abdul Malik had said the election of mosque committee members was provided for by Section 22 (4) of the Pulau Pinang Islamic Religious Council Enactment and that the state government was willing to be challenged in court over the matter.

He said 151 mosques would be holding the polls while the rest would be using alternative methods like consensus building for selecting the committee members.

Several quarters had expressed opposition to the polls method for appointing mosque committee members saying it would only serve to divide Muslims.

(Bernama)

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