

**EC chief says polls prep going well**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
**November 17, 2011**

PORT DICKSON, Nov 17 — Preparation for the next general election are proceeding well, Election Commission (EC) chief Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Mohd Yusof said, amid speculation Malaysia will go to the polls in the first half of 2012.

“We are preparing very early. There are still many stages. At this stage, we are appointing some of the returning officers (ROs) and assistant returning officers (AROs),” Abdul Aziz was quoted as saying by Bernama Online today.

The EC chairman also said the next stage would involve the logistics of holding the polls, including catering for transportation of both election workers and materials.

“This preparation is necessary because we do not want to be caught unprepared when Parliament is dissolved,” Abdul Aziz added.

The Malaysian Insider previously reported Abdul Aziz’s deputy, Datuk Wira Wan Ahmad Wan Omar, as saying the commission was gearing up for a possible January general election.

“Many of the initial preparations have been taken care of, are complete ... and much more will be done with the co-operation of other government agencies,” he said, but did not elaborate further.

Preparations may be complicated if the introduction of indelible ink is done before the general election is called.

Yesterday, the Attorney-General paved the way for the use of indelible ink in elections, telling the parliamentary select committee (PSC) on electoral reforms the move can “be done anytime” and only requires the approval of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong before Parliament is notified.

The ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) government’s mandate will expire only in May 2013, but speculation is rife that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak will call early polls to avoid falling victim to an anticipated public backlash due to global economic woes.

But electoral reforms movement Bersih 2.0 insists Najib should not go to the polls until the reforms — if any — recommended by the PSC are implemented.

Opposition leaders, who strongly back Bersih, have also warned that further rallies will be held if the government fails to implement these demands.

The Malaysian Insider  
Copyright © 2011 The Malaysian Insider  
Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/ec-chief-says-polls-prep-going-well/>