

**No 'Internet campaign' on eve of polling day**  
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KUALA LUMPUR: The Election Commission will work with the police and Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission to ensure no political campaigning takes place on the Internet on the eve of polling day.

EC deputy chairman Datuk Wan Ahmad Wan Omar said the body was aware that there would be attempts to use Twitter, Facebook, blogs and text messages during the cool-off period in the 13th general-election.

"We would advise those contemplating of doing so not to do it. As per the rule, all campaigning must stop from midnight before polling day," he said at the New Straits Times Press' headquarters in Balai Berita here yesterday.

He said Bukit Aman's cyber and MCMC's enforcement units would assist the EC during the general-election.

He also said the EC was looking at extending the campaigning period for the next general-election.

"We listen to the people and also the demands of parties which want more time for campaigning. So, we are thinking of extending it."

Currently, the minimum campaigning period is seven days and the maximum is 60 days.

Wan Ahmad said the commission expected the cost for the next general-election to increase.

"The cost rises in line with the increase in the number of voters. In the 12th general election, there were 10.9 million voters. Now, we have 12.3 million voters.

"We need to increase the number of polling stations and payments for our election workers."

The 11th general-election in 2004 cost RM100 million while the 2008 general-election cost RM171.82 million.

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