

Last chance to sign up as voters
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IPOH: Today is the last day for some 3.3 million Malaysians to register as voters to enable them to cast their ballots in the next general election if it is held after August.

They make up 20.5 per cent of the total 16.2 million eligible voters in the country as of April 3, this year.

Selangor tops the list with the most number of non-registered voters at 589,328 people, followed by Johor (462,377) and Sarawak (433,194).

There are some 300,995 unregistered voters in Perak.

Election Commission (EC) chairman Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Mohd Yusof appealed to the 3.3 million eligible Malaysians to come forward to register.

"If they register by tomorrow (today) and the electoral roll is gazetted in August, they will be eligible to vote if the election is held any time after that.

"As such, they should come forward without any delay to register," he told the New Straits Times yesterday.

Aziz said if they registered within the third quarter of the year -- between July and September -- the electoral roll would only be gazetted at the end of November or early December.

As the polls are expected to be called this year, this may prevent them from voting in the coming election.

Aziz said despite repeated calls, these people still failed to come forward to register as voters.

Today is the last day of the second quarter of the year, after which the names in the electoral roll will be displayed for two weeks in July. If there is no objection, the roll will be gazetted.

Meanwhile, Aziz said only 308,162 of the total 12,912,590 registered voters took the opportunity to check their status on the electoral roll, which has been on display since the beginning of this month.

The figure was less than three per cent of the number of registered voters.

"This is the dilemma we are facing ... despite the pleas, people still do not come forward to check their status.

"And when any issue arises, the EC will be faulted ... this is the sad part."

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