

**Campaign Period Expires, New Kajang Assemblyman To Be Elected Sunday**  
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KAJANG, March 22 (Bernama) -- Sunday, a total of 38,055 registered voters will flock the polling centres around the constituency to cast their votes to elect a new assemblyman at the Kajang state by-election.

As the official 12-day campaign period expired at midnight tonight, focus will now turn to the voters' most preferred candidate to fill the state seat left vacant by Lee Chin Cheh of PKR on Jan 27, the move which was initially made to make way for the party's de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to contest.

Anwar, however, was disqualified after the Court of Appeal found him guilty on a sodomy charge and hence, allowing his wife, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, to take his place as the candidate for the by-election.

It is now up to the voters to decide whether to give the seat to Barisan Nasional (BN) candidate Datin Paduka Chew Mei Fun, 50, who is also MCA vice-president, or to let PKR to retain the seat through its president, Wan Azizah, 62.

Chew's candidacy was announced by BN deputy president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin at the Putra World Trade Centre on Feb 21, almost a month after PKR named Anwar, while Wan Azizah was announced as the replacement candidate in a simple press conference, two days after her husband was sentenced to five years' jail on March 7.

The battle between BN and PKR can be described as Permatang Pauh's history repeating itself, because the same thing happened in the parliamentary constituency in 2008, where the elected PKR representative (Wan Azizah) stepped down to make way for Anwar to contest for the seat.

However, the 12-day campaign period set by the Election Commission seemed to be less lively than any other by-elections before because the whole nation is emotionally affected by the mysterious disappearance of the Malaysia Airlines Flight MH380 since March 8.

Chew said despite being in a grieving mood, her campaign itinerary over the past 12 days was packed, but that did not stop her from meeting with as much voters as possible.

In a day, she said she would attend not less than 20 events with the people, besides attending house-to-house programmes with BN election machinery or simply accompanying top party leaders who went to the ground to help her in the campaign.

"Despite the uncertain weather condition, I'm so relief to have had good health, thanks to my friends for preparing me herbal soups, hence enabling me to visit all the 16 polling district centres," said the candidate, who has campaigned on 'integrity and credibility'.

Besides Muhyiddin, who had been campaigning for Chew on daily basis since the nomination day on March 11, the BN candidate also received strong supports from among Cabinet ministers and Selangor Umno chairman Datuk Seri Noh Omar, who is the BN election director for the by-election.

Meanwhile, Wan Azizah, who is better known as 'Kak Wan', seemed to have kept her distance with the media and rarely attended the daily press conference, purposely because she wanted to meet with as many voters as possible to personally explain to them why the seat was vacated by Lee.

To ensure smooth running of the by-election, 3,000 police personnel have been deployed to Kajang, besides having the assistance from police volunteers, Rela, Civil Defence Department and Fire and Rescue Department personnel.

A victory in Kajang will be highly significant for Selangor PKR, but it would also cause the disputes about the post of Selangor Menteri Besar to continue to persist as there are several attempts made by the party leaders to replace Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim as the menteri besar.

In the 13th general election, Lee won the seat with 6,824-vote majority in six-corner fight against BN, BERJASA and three independent candidates.

Fifteen polling centres with 84 channels will open from 8 am to 5 pm Sunday.

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