

PM Hsien Loong, Wife Vote In Singapore General Election

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SINGAPORE, Sept 11 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong cast his ballot at Sekolah Rendah Alexandra here in the 12th Singapore general election, polling for which is being conducted from 8 am to 8 pm Friday.

Lee, who is secretary-general of the ruling People's Action Party (PAP), and his wife, Ho Ching, arrived at the polling centre at about noon and left about 10 minutes later.

Lee is defending the Ang Mo Kio group representation constituency.

A total of 832 polling stations across the country opened at 8 am for the election.

Candidates from nine political parties, including the ruling People's Action Party (PAP), are competing for 16 Group Representation Constituencies (GRCs) and 13 Single Member Constituencies (SMCs) to fill 89 parliamentary seats.

The eight other parties are the Workers Party (WP), Singapore People's Party (SPP), Singapore Democratic Party (SDP), National Solidarity Party (NSP), Singapore Democratic Alliance (SDA), Reform Party (RP), Singaporeans First (SF) and People's Power Party (PPP).

Also in the fray are two independent candidates, Han Hui Hui and Samir Salim Neji, who hope to score in a general election dubbed as the most comprehensive and crucial in Singapore's history.

The Tanjong Pagar constituency, a stronghold of PAP during the years of Singapore's founding prime minister Lee Kuan Yew, who died in March this year, is now being contested.

PAP incumbents are facing a five-man SF team in Tanjong Pagar's first electoral contest since 1991.

For the first time since Singapore became independent in 1965, the ruling PAP is facing stiff contest in an election, with all 89 seats in 29 constituencies seeing contest.

In the last general election, in 2011, the PAP retained power by winning 81 of the 87 seats up for contest.

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