

14,449,200 voters go to the polls tomorrow – EC

BERNAMA

08/05/2018

PUTRAJAYA, May 8 (Bernama) -- The Election Commission says 14,449,200 Malaysians are eligible to vote in the 14th general election tomorrow.

Its chairman Tan Sri Mohd Hashim Abdullah said 8,253 polling centres and 28,115 voting channels would be opened nationwide from 8 am and closed at different times depending on the location and number of voters.

The process would end at 5 pm, he said in a statement.

Considering that tomorrow would be rainy according to the weather forecast, Mohd Hashim advised the public not to come out to vote at the last hour.

He also reminded voters not to give their identity card to anyone as it could be misused and would pose a problem for them on polling day.

He said the public could check their voting details through the MySPR Semak app or spr.gov.my, or SMS to SPR SEMAK stating their identity card number and send to 15888, or call 03-88927018, or check at EC's booth at any polling station.

He said political parties were also not allowed to open, set up or maintain an office or booth to assist the public in checking their voting details.

On the voting process, Mohd Hashim said voters' fingers would be scrutinised to ensure they were free of ink stain or any mark that could prevent the ink from sticking to the finger such as nail polisher, oil or fake finger.

"Once this is done, the voter is asked to dip his or her left forefinger into the bottle of ink prepared by the EC.

"If the voter refuses to do so, the ballot paper will not be given to him/her. A reminder to voters, do not let anyone mark their finger with ink before going to vote," he said.

Mohd Hashim said employers were obliged to allow their workers who are registered voters, to cast their ballot.

"Any employer found to have prevented their workers from going out to vote would be taken action against under Section 25(3) of the Election Offences Act 1954 which provides for a fine not exceeding RM5,000 or one year imprisonment on conviction," he said.

He said agents of the candidates and parties must not wear attire with the symbol, photo and name of the candidate of any party.

"Similarly with voters, because any form or activity of campaign are not allowed on polling day," he said.

Meanwhile, ballot-counting would be held at the polling centres respectively.

Election agents would be present to observe the process, said Mohd Hashim.

In ALOR SETAR, supporters of political parties have been urged to act maturely and avoid provocation that could disrupt public order.

Kedah EC director Zuhri Ismail said all parties including voters should go and cast their ballot tomorrow with a positive attitude to uphold democracy.

"But I believe and am confident that the process will run smoothly," he said.

In Pahang, 47 candidates are contesting in 14 parliamentary seats and 131 candidates, in 42 state seats.

State EC director Datuk Zamree Hamli said there are 823,981 registered voters in Pahang, of whom 32,048 are in Cameron Highlands; 35,294 in Lipis; 57,723 in Raub; 63,609 in Jerantut; 77,208 in Indera Mahkota ; 62,696 in Kuantan; and 55,135 in Paya Besar.

There are 88,899 voters in Pekan; 41,036 in Maran; 47,264 in Kuala Krau; 75,081 in Temerloh; 67,359 in Bentong; 58,711 in Bera; and 61,918 in Rompin.

In KANGAR, 88 schools in Perlis will be used as polling centres for 146,076 voters, according to the Perlis EC.

EC state director Ahmad Ibrahim Mohd Tayib said returning officers and election staff were doing the final touches to the polling centres including the 296 voting channels.

He said Perlis EC has more than 200 wheelchairs ready including 100 units borrowed from the state Welfare Department for the elderly to use at the centres.

"Apart from the normal voters, there are 4,120 early voters and 25 overseas voters," he said.

In LABUAN, EC officer (returning officer) Raisin Saidin said the final briefing for election workers was conducted at the counting centre at Labuan Matriculation College.

"We are ensuring that all necessary documents including the ballot papers are properly organised and in place for a smooth election process," he said.

Labuan has 28,356 registered voters.

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