

Singapore Goes To The Polls Saturday To Elect New President
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SINGAPORE, Aug 26 (Bernama) -- Singapore will go to the polls Saturday to elect a new president.

Four "Tan" are vying for the post to replace incumbent S.R. Nathan, whose terms ends on Aug 31 after serving two terms.

The presidential election is dubbed historic as it is the first since 1993 when Ong Teng Cheong won in a straight fight and the first multi-candidate presidential race for Singapore.

The presidential hopefuls -- former deputy prime minister Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, former member of parliament Dr Tan Cheng Bok, former chief of NTUC Income, a cooperative insurance society, Tan Kin Lian, and former senior civil servant Tan Jee Say -- are seeking a six-year term as head of state.

After an intense electoral campaign kicked off on nomination day on Aug 17, tomorrow will be the D-day for the four as Singaporeans cast their votes for the candidate who could fulfil his pledges.

During their nine-day campaign, all four candidates deliberated their strongest points on why they should be elected president.

Despite the president's position is largely ceremonial, the head of state is given reserve powers over government expenditure of financial reserves and appointments to key public offices such as the chief justice, attorney-general, chairman and members of the Public Service Commission, chief of defence forces, and commissioner of police.

The president also has certain powers of oversight over the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau and decisions of the government under the Internal Security Act and the Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act.

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