

Malaysia: Gearing Up for A Post Pandemic Election

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Malaysia's 15th General Elections (GE15): The Backdrop


- Current 14th parliamentary term ends on 16 July 2023 but it might be dissolved earlier
- Lingering political turmoil that led to the ouster of 2 prime ministers and 3 snap state elections
- Held 2 by-elections and 4 state elections during the pandemic
- Transitioned to endemicity on 1 April 2022

Key Issues and Challenges

The continued threat of Covid19 – finding a balance between public health and democracy

Higher registered voters (21 million) due to automatic voter registration but lower turnout is expected

Rise of mis-information that could affect the credibility of GE15 and the EC



GE15: Preparing for a Post- Pandemic Election

Relaxing in-person voting SOP and further improving voter access

Restoring pre-pandemic campaign rules but still encouraging online campaign

Building public trust in our electoral system by promoting transparency & communicating effectively

Relaxing In-person Voting SOP and Enhancing Voter Access

- Voting SOP
 - No more using hand sanitizer, checking body temperature, observing physical distancing and scanning contact tracing app
 - Wearing mask is still required
- Voter Access
 - Increase the number of polling stations
 - Extend voting hours
 - Extend postal voting to Malaysians residing in Southern Thailand, Singapore, Brunei and Kalimantan to vote



Restoring Pre-pandemic Campaign Rules; At the Same Time Encouraging Online Campaign



- Pre-pandemic Campaign Rules
 - Walkabout
 - House-to-house visits
 - Political rallies
 - Distribute pamphlets face-to-face
- Online Campaign
 - Social media
 - Campaign specific mobile apps
 - Paid advertising on social media

Building Public Trust by Promoting Transparency and Communicating Effectively

- Live streaming of the electoral process
- Giving full access to local observers
- Engaging effectively with the public



The graphic is a circular design with a gradient from yellow to orange. It features a woman, Sis Shira, in a black blazer and red top. Text elements include 'FB LIVE STREAMING', 'Sis Shira', 'SAKSIKAN SECARA LANGSUNG', '“HARI UNDI AWAL”', 'Pilihan Raya Umum Dewan Undangan Negeri Sabah Ke-16', '22 SEPTEMBER 2020', and 'Selasa'. At the bottom, there is a Facebook logo with the text 'Like us on Facebook!' and the URL 'https://www.facebook.com/sprgovmy'. Social media handles for 'akademi pilihan raya' are also present.

FB LIVE STREAMING

Sis Shira

SAKSIKAN SECARA LANGSUNG

“HARI UNDI AWAL”

Pilihan Raya Umum Dewan Undangan Negeri Sabah Ke-16

22 SEPTEMBER 2020

Selasa

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Lasting Change from the Pandemic

Adaptability

- Enhance our ability to adapt and improve

Knowledge

- Acquire invaluable experience and knowledge to make our elections resilient against any crisis

Learning

- Learn new ideas and innovations from other EMBs

Conclusion



1

Take advantage of this crisis to make improvements in our election processes, especially with regard to voting access

2

Review and update norms and laws related to emergency decrees and health and safety restrictions to make sure the transparency and integrity of elections are protected

3

Make use of other countries' ideas and innovations during the pandemic and incorporate them into decision making.

Terima kasih.
Thank you.

