

What's at stake

Malaysians vote today after a hard-fought 11-day campaign.



WHAT HAPPENS TODAY?

Malaysians head to polling stations where they can cast their votes from 8am to 5pm.

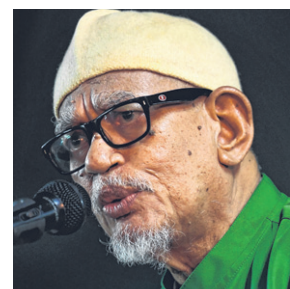
They will be choosing their Members of Parliament and state assemblymen. Sarawak, which held its state assembly elections in 2016, will only be choosing its MPs.



Prime Minister Najib Razak



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad



PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang

WHO'S FIGHTING WHOM?

Ruling coalition Barisan Nasional (BN) faces off against the opposition coalition Pakatan Harapan. PH will use the Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) logo - two white crescents on a blue background, resembling an eye.

PH's former ally, the Islamist party Parti Islam SeMalaysia (PAS), is contesting 158

seats, resulting in three-cornered fights which analysts say should benefit BN.

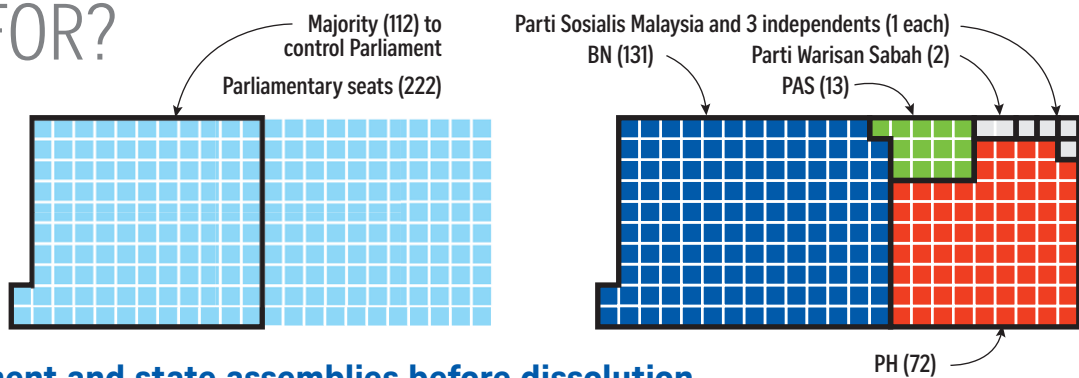
Helping BN is Prime Minister Najib Razak, 64, who will fight it out with his former-mentor-turned-foe Mahathir Mohamad, 92, who now heads the opposition. The third leader in the fray is PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang, 70.

WHAT ARE THEY GUNNING FOR?

A simple majority in the federal Parliament and control of the state assemblies.

To control Parliament, BN or PH needs to win 112 of the 222 seats. BN had 131, PH had 72, PAS had 13, and PH ally Parti Warisan Sabah had two. The independent Parti Sosialis Malaysia held one seat, and there were also three independent MPs.

BN controls 10 of the 13 state assemblies. PH runs Penang and Selangor, and PAS runs Kelantan.



Here is a look at the balance of power in Parliament and state assemblies before dissolution

BN	PH	PAS	Total
3	-	-	3
13	1	1	15

Perlis

BN	PH	PAS	Total
10	5	-	15
20	9	7	36

Kedah

BN	PH	PAS	IND	Total
3	10	-	-	13
10	28	1	1	40

Penang

BN	PH	PAS	Other	Total
13	9	1	1	24
31	24	4	-	59

Perak

BN	PH	PAS	IND	Total
5	16	1	-	22
12	29	13	2	56

Selangor

BN	PH	Total
2	9	11

Kuala Lumpur*

BN	PH	Total
1	1	2

Putrajaya*

BN	PH	Other	Total
5	2	1	8
22	14	-	36

Negeri Sembilan

BN	PH	PAS	Empty	Total
5	2	7	-	14
11	2	31	1	45

Kelantan

BN	PH	PAS	Total
4	1	3	8
17	1	14	32

Terengganu

BN	PH	PAS	Total
9	4	1	14
30	10	2	42

Pahang

BN	PH	PAS	Total
20	6	-	26
37	16	3	56

Johor



BN	PH	Total
1	1	2

Labuan*

BN	PH	IND	Other	Total
21	2	-	2	25
48	4	2	6	60

Sabah

BN	PH	Total
25	6	31
-	-	82

Sarawak**

NOTE: *Federal Territory. It has no state assembly **No state elections
Source: ELECTION COMMISSION
PHOTOS: KUA CHEE SIONG, BERNAMA, EPA STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

WHAT COULD HAPPEN?

BN wins by a wide margin.

This is unlikely since it won by a slim margin in 2013, and Tun Dr Mahathir is a formidable opponent who may be able to sway Malay voters who form the backbone of BN's support.

BN wins by a slim margin.

It could maintain power but lose the popular vote, as it did in 2013. This is likely to affect Datuk Seri Najib's standing in his party and place him on precarious ground afterwards.

Neither BN nor PH wins a majority in Parliament.

Coalition talks will ensue and anything could happen in the weeks ahead. Elected MPs could be enticed to switch sides, which is allowed under Malaysia's laws.

PH wins.

Any handover will be unpredictable and could be messy, as BN has been the only ruling coalition since independence.

WHEN WILL WE KNOW THE RESULTS?

Results will start trickling in from 9pm. A fuller picture will emerge only after midnight.