AUTOMATIC voter registration mulled

EC DOING STUDY: Voting will not be compulsory, says Najib

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, in replying to a question by Datuk Dr Abd Latiff Ahmad (BN-Mersing) in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday, said it would not be feasible to make voting compulsory.

"The idea of automatic registration can be considered although no decision has been made on it," he told Dr Latiff.

A check with the Election Commission (EC) yesterday revealed that a team was already conducting a feasibility study.

EC deputy chairman Datuk Wan Ahmad Wan Omar said the commission felt that this was the answer to the "problem" of Malaysians failing to register as voters despite their eligibility.

"The automatic registration system will be the answer to this problem but we have to carefully look at the pros and cons of the implementation," he told the New Straits Times yesterday.

The commission had been "seriously looking into" the proposal "for some time now", he said, adding that there were about three million eligible Malaysians who did not register to vote.

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Kuala Besut to see first by-election after GE13

FAHIRUL N. RAMLI AND ZARINA ABDULLAH

BESUT: Kuala Besut assemblyman Datuk Dr A. Rahman Mohktar died at Sultanah Nur Zahirah Hospital in Kuala Terengganu yesterday. He was 55.

With his death, the state constituency will have to go through a by-election less than two months after the 13th General Election.

Dr Rahman died at 10.16am due to lung failure after being warded at the hospital's intensive care unit since June 20. He had complained of chest pains and breathing difficulties.

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