

23 seats go to Pro Mahasiswa

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KUALA LUMPUR: Pro Mahasiswa emerged the winner in the University of Malaya Students Representative Council (MPPUM) election yesterday.

Its candidates won 23 seats out of the total 41 contested while Penggerak Mahasiswa won the other 18 seats.

Pro Mahasiswa swept all the nine general seats and 14 faculty seats while Penggerak Mahasiswa only won 18 faculty seats.

The MPPUM offered 43 seats to be filled by general representatives and faculty representatives but two seats were not contested because the Undergraduate Studies Institute (IPS) did not have any candidate, resulting in the number of seats contested being reduced to 41.

The 2010/2011 election results were announced by UM Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Ghauth Jasmon at the Akademi Pengajian Melayu, UM.

Twelve faculty candidates won uncontested in the election to represent 28,000 students at the university.

UM Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Rohana Yusof said polling started at 9am and polling centres at 18 locations in the UM campus were closed at 5pm.

The voter turnout was 67.1 per cent, which was short of the 70 per cent targeted.

Meanwhile, campus elections at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) ended smoothly yesterday.

UPM will announce the results today. Most students cast their ballots during lunch.

UPM polling centres registered 11,155 of 21,000 eligible students voting for their representatives in student councils.

Both universities used the e-voting system.

UPM students had last week protested against the alleged involvement of political parties in campus election.

The Pro Mahasiswa students handed over a memorandum to the vice-chancellor on Friday complaining that their rival, the pro-establishment Aspirasi group, had allegedly met with representatives of political parties on the election.

Some UM students, however, expressed dissatisfaction at this year's election process.

Islamic Law undergraduate Mohd Syafaat Mohd Azli, 22, said the time given to cast votes was insufficient.

"Three minutes is too short. I don't think the time for the main polling area and the faculty polling areas are enough. And if you exceed the time given, the votes are considered spoilt."

He added that the electronic method of nominating candidates had flaws. For example, the details of the nominees were not thorough and the candidates' online objection forms had limitations.

Islamic Studies Faculty student Ummu Syazwina Abd Azam, 24, said she would have preferred manual elections.

"The pictures of the candidates were not displayed and it's difficult to recognise who you are voting for."

Student Suhailah Jaafar, 23, said the e-candidate nomination was more time-consuming compared with the previous manual process.

"When it was done manually, the names of candidates were out by afternoon. Now, it took the whole day and we could start campaigning only on the following day."



Universiti Putra Malaysia students voting at the Serdang campus yesterday.

Universiti Sains
Malaysia students
voting in Penang
yesterday. —
NST picture by
Ramdzan Masiam

