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Campus elections to be postponed until year's end

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PETALING JAYA: Campus elections in several public universities will be postponed to the end of this year or early next year.

This is because the elections coincided with the Hari Raya and Deepavali festivals, semester break and examinations.

Sources said at least four universities, including Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Universiti Malaya (UM), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and Universiti Sains Malaysia intend to delay the campus elections.

It is believed that existing regulations prohibit some universities from holding activities too near the examination period.

Campus elections are usually held in October to elect members of the student representative council for the next academic year.

UPM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk

Dr Nik Mustapha Raja Abdullah said the university decided to postpone the campus elections as the period coincided with the Hari Raya break, convocation, the final examinations and semester holidays.

He said the elections would probably be held in January.

UKM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Sharifah Hapsah Syed Hasan Shahabudin said the university was also postponing the campus elections as it was near the final term exams.

UM student representative council president Afandy Sutrisno Tanjung said there has been no announcement of the postponement of campus elections.

Meanwhile, in Putrajaya some 300 university students, led by Solidariti Mahasiswa Malaysia (SMM), a coalition of several student bodies, held a demonstration in front of the Higher Education Ministry.

SMM chairman Haafizuddin Abirah said they were protesting against the delay in announcing the

date for the campus elections.

Pro Mahasiswa Nasional chairman Nor Razali Zainuddin questioned why campus elections could not be held at all public universities simultaneously.

Haafizuddin later handed over a 17-page memorandum which contained, among others, a request for the abolishment of the e-voting system, to Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin's special officer Mohd Arif Adenan.