

# INNOVATIVE WAYS TO HOLD POLLS NEEDED

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**KUCHING:** The Election Commission (EC) has to come up with innovative ways to hold the Sarawak state election in the new normal, said Prof Dr Jayum Jawan, a political scientist at Universiti Putra Malaysia.

"However, if it cannot do so, then it would fail the country and

the people and the moral thing to do is to resign.

"This is because the conduct of elections is under the purview of the EC, which should have known and prepared for this scenario right from the start of lockdown in early 2020. It should also have learnt from what happened during the Sabah state election," he said.

He pointed out that the sooner the state election was held, the better it would be.

"Though it is unfortunate that

Covid-19 has subverted democracy, the suspension of election by the King is very appropriate in order to ensure the safety of the Sarawakians," he said.

Jayum said the extension of the Emergency would help to flatten the Covid-19 curve for the state.

"The most important and best effort by the government must be supplemented by habit changes by the people to make the government introduced measures more effective," he added.



JAYUM

Jayum also commented that aside from achieving the 80 per cent herd immunity, the Ministry of Health should have an important role in determining other necessary criteria before the state election was held as it was the most important and authoritative agency with its expertise.