Parties battle for Aljunied, Gen-Y hearts

After remarkable campaign, a watershed poll looms

By WONG WEI KONG  

THE LAST salvos of the campaign have been fired in the defining battle for Aljunied and the fight for young hearts.

On the last night of rallies before votes are cast tomorrow, the ruling People’s Action Party (PAP) made an impassioned call for the support of young voters, and vowed a reform of government account.

Mr Yeo pledged that he and his team-mates, if elected, would be advocates of a comeback within the PAP, the government and the Cabinet. He acknowledged that the election has surfaced a new approach is necessary also because of the emergence of young Singaporeans in GE 2011, as both voters and as participants. Young voters, aged 21 to 35, will account for about a quarter of the 2.2 million voters casting their votes tomorrow. Fed on the Internet and used to opposing views, young Singaporeans appear more politically involved than in previous elections.

With some individuals put under scrutiny, this has largely been a contest of issues and ideals. “Unless we have a break election with unexpected results, Singaporeans can be proud both of the ruling as well as opposition parties. And of themselves too as an electorate whose demands are increasingly shaping the responses of both players,” wrote Ho Kwon Ping, chairman of the board of trustees of Singapore Management University in The Straits Times. “If all goes well, the winner in this watershed election may well be Singapore’s future.”