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VOTER-REGISTRATION EXERCISE EFFECTIVE, SAYS PRIME MINISTER

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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 9 (Bernama) -- The voter-registration exercise being conducted by the Election Commission is effective, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The number of registered voters had continually increased through such exercise, he said in reply to questions from Encik Kerk Kim Hock (DAP-Pasir Pinji) and Encik Ibrahim Mahmood (PAS-Kuala Krai) in the Dewan Rakyat.

He said the Commission was still studying a proposal for voter-registration to be conducted throughout the year.

Dr Mahathir told the House there were 8,758 voters with 'duplication in names and identity card numbers under the electoral rolls used for the 1990 general election;

Selangor' had the most number of such 'voters with 1,630, followed by Sabah (1,570) and Johor (1,006), he said. -- more

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Revision of electoral rolls had to be done every year to detect such duplication which was due to voters registering again on **changing** address, he said.

He said the duplication in 1990 could not be detected earlier because the electoral rolls had to be prepared fast for the general election but this problem had been overcome.

He also said the Commission regularly checked with the National Registration Department to strike out from the electoral rolls the names of voters who had passed away.

To a supplementary question from Wan Mohamed Jamin Mahmood (PAS-Tumpat), Dr Mahathir said the government was trying to find a system to overcome the problem of voters intentionally registering twice in different constituencies.

Providing for the automatic registration of voters on reaching 21 years of age could not resolve this problem, he added. -- Bernama

▼09/12/16-33MST