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Call for panel of five judges to hear election petitions

IPOH, Wed. - DAP national deputy chairman Karpal Singh today proposed that a panel of five judges sit to hear election petitions.

He said under the Election Offences Act 1954, an election petition was tried by the Chief Judge or by a judge of any High Court nominated by the Chief Judge of Malaya or Sabah and Sarawak.

"The decision of one man was final and cannot be taken up for appeal."

He said a panel of judges was in a better position to hear such matters.

Karpal said this in response to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement that the decision by the Election Court to nullify the Barisan Nasional's victory in the Bukit Begunan constituency in the 1996 Sarawak State election could lead to further abuse.

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