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EC told to get feedback from political parties

THE Election Commission has been urged to get feedback and input from all parties before formulating new laws, regulations and procedures to ensure a more transparent election in the future.

In making this call, Datuk Ruhanie Ahmad (BN-Parit Sulong) said the Commission must not only meet the NGOs and university students but also representatives of the various political parties.

"They should not just limit themselves to meeting the NGOs," he said when debating Budget 2001 at the committee stage.

This, he said, was to ensure that polls in future would be conducted smoothly, efficiently and effectively.

Ruhanie cited as an example instances where the commission was insensitive towards all the "misdeeds" of the opposition during the campaigning period.

"In my constituency, during the campaign period, the officers from the commission was so afraid to take action against the opposition who used billboards with verses from the Quran written on it to influence voters to vote for their candidate.

"The opposition even used other methods which are against the procedures to gain sympathy from voters.

"The opposition have abused the Quran for their own gains and even exploited the verses in the Quran to fish for votes."

Ruhanie said the commission should take action against the opposition for using this uncalled for tactics to win votes.

Dr Tan Seng Giaw (DAP-Kepong) said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad should attend the Parliament meeting at least twice a week to answer questions from the MPs.

He said by being in House, the Prime Minister would set a good example to other MPs.

"His presence would be greatly appreciated by all."

Taking a swipe at the BN MPs, Tan said Dr Mahathir's presence in Parliament would also help to discipline other BN MPs.

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