

PM: Review polls lists

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By **B. Suresh Ram**

PETALING JAYA, Sun: The electoral rolls should be reviewed and properly maintained to ensure fair elections, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He was commenting on the situation in Sabah where non-citizens were allowed to vote in Likas in 1999 and on reports that

the Election Commission had rejected 4,500 objections raised over the roll. The Likas election, which was won by former chief minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee, was declared null and void by an Election Court last Friday.

Speaking to reporters at the RMAF base in Subang on his return from a four-day visit to Japan, Mahathir said government parties have also lodged many complaints on the matter.

"To say it (EC) did not do any-

thing is not true. It investigates all complaints and comes up with an answer, even though we may find it difficult to accept some of the answers," he said.

The prime minister noted that many of the steps taken to overcome problems relating to the maintenance of electoral rolls were not adequate.

"We have seen whenever there is an election, many people could not vote.

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Mahathir tells SEN of foul-ups in electoral registration

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"This happened in Lunas (by-election last year) where many government supporters could not vote because their names were not registered or they had moved," he said.

Mahathir said there have been cases where voters were deregistered because they no longer stayed in the constituency.

However, thousands of Kelantanese who are settled in Kuala Lumpur were still able to vote in Kelantan, he said.

"We have to investigate the right of voters to vote in certain places," he said.

"I have for the past 25 years been staying in Kuala Lumpur, but I am a voter in Titi Gajah, Kedah. And nobody has questioned me on this."

On the High Court's decision declaring the Likas election null and void, Mahathir said: "If that is the view of the court, we accept. We have to make preparations for a by-election."