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Weeding out phantom voters

reports on "Dewan Negara" by Ainon Mohd; Brenda Lim
PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the names of those who want to register as voters will be rejected if their identity card numbers do not exist in the National Registration Department's records.

He said the Election Commission had begun its online registration with the NRD.

"The computer will reject their registrations if their identity card numbers are not listed with the NRD," he said in a written reply to a question by Senator Nosimah Hashim.

During election day, Dr Mahathir said the commission would seek the expertise of NRD officers to detect voters with doubtful documents.

He said the commission would continue to address problems relating to phantom voters and that it had conducted thorough checks with the NRD since last year to not only clean up the electoral roll but determine and establish the citizenship status of every registered voter.

"Names of dubious voters will be struck out from the electoral roll if the commission finds that the status of their citizenship is doubtful and not in the NRD records."

Dr Mahathir said this would enable the electoral roll to be updated on a regular basis in line with Regulation 19, Election Rules (Voters Registration) 1971.

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