

Phantom voters found in Pendang

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ALOR STAR: Kedah Umno discovered phantom voters in Anak Bukit and Pendang during its house-to-house campaign for the July 18 by-election.

Its liaison committee secretary Osman Mat Aji said a study conducted by Umno revealed more than 2,000 phantom voters in Pendang and another 2,000 in Anak Bukit.

"We have proof to show that these voters are not locals but had registered there (in the constituencies) ...," he told a press conference yesterday.

He was commenting on an allegation by Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak that PAS had systematically brought in phantom voters from Malay-majority areas to Kedah.

Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had also said on Saturday that the electoral roll in the recent Anak Bukit by-election had been manipulated by PAS to include more than 500 voters, who did not live or work in the area.

Osman said that during the house-to-house campaign, the party found that some of the names in the electoral roll were unknown to the villagers.

"If these voters are locals but lived elsewhere, then the villagers may know them. However, these voters are unknowns but would appear on polling day to vote," he added.

He said if the voters lived only a few metres from the constituencies but registered there, it could

be acceptable.

"But if they lived elsewhere, including in other districts and states but registered there, their motive can be questioned.

"The problem is that the addresses used by these voters are hard to trace because in some villages, the houses do not have numbers," he added.

Osman claimed the problem was not confined to the two constituencies but also other areas.

PAS information chief Azizan Abdul Razak, however, refuted that the party had transferred voters to Kedah in a bid to wrest control of the state.

"If PAS was able to transfer voters to Kedah, it would have wrested control of the state a long time ago," he added.