

Wan Ahmad: EC to clean up electoral roll

STAR - 5 NOV 2002

KUALA TERENGGANU: The Election Commission (EC) is working closely with the National Registration department (NRD) to clean up the electoral roll, its secretary Datuk Wan Ahmad Wan Omar said yesterday.

"The government has informed us of the existence of about 2.8 million voters who have been transferred and we are carrying out study to identify whether they are constructive voters or phantom voters.

"We will also study whether there were fraudulent practices involved," he said.

Wan Ahmad was commenting on the statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that the opposition parties had transferred about 2.8 million voters in their bid to

win in marginal constituencies.

Earlier, he attended the state Umno registration drive of members as voters here, which was officiated by Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Wan Ahmad said the EC and NRD were facing problems to identify the status of the 2.8 million voters as the number was very big.

He said the study would take sometime as the EC and NRD were faced with a shortage of staff.

Wan Ahmad said so far, Umno had come forward to help EC to identify these voters.

He said since the Registration of Electors Regulations 2002, which took effect on July 16, 2002, individuals registering with the EC were required to

be present and bring along their identity cards.

In Klang, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi called on the EC to clean up the electoral roll before the next general election to maintain its integrity and credibility.

"A voter must be connected to the place where he or she is registered.

"If the Commission finds 20 or 30 persons using the same address, or the voters come from places unrelated to the place of registration, then something is wrong and this should be investigated," Abdullah said on Sunday.

Abdullah said if there were efforts to move voters to certain areas, it was up to the Election Commission to stop such unethical practices.