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Mahathir-Voters

UMNO CLAIMS PAS USED PHANTOM VOTERS TO WIN ANAK BUKIT SEAT

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 30 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Umno has checked the electoral roll for the Anak Bukit state and Pendang parliamentary by-elections in Kedah last month and found that PAS had used phantom voters to win in Anak Bukit.

The prime minister said that from the four ballot boxes in Anak Bukit, Umno had found that more than 500 of the voters did not work or reside in the constituency.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, said Umno was also puzzled over the fact that several of its supporters could not cast their votes because they were not listed as voters.

"They used two methods...one is by transferring voters (who support PAS) from areas that they could not win to other areas so that the number of their supporters (in the latter) is more than half.

"The other way is by taking out the names of people who don't vote for PAS from the electoral roll in the areas concerned," he told reporters after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting, here.

Dr Mahathir said Umno wanted the Election Commission (EC) to explain how the list of voters registered in the two constituencies was different from that in the possession of the EC officers in the polling centres.

"There had been instances of Umno supporters who were listed as voters in these constituencies being told suddenly by the EC officers that their names were not in the list when they wanted to cast their votes," he said.

He said Umno's investigation revealed that 1,359 names had been deleted from the original list Umno had of voters in the Pendang by-election.

In the by-elections which were conducted following the death of PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor, who held both seats, the Barisan Nasional (BN) won the Pendang seat with a 283-vote majority but lost in Anak Bukit by 508 votes.

Dr Mahathir said Umno believed that if the matter could be rectified, the BN candidate from Umno could win the by-election with an even bigger majority.

He also wanted the EC to review the electoral roll for the whole country to ensure that there was no recurrence of the "phantom voters" or "disappearance of voters' names" incident in future.

He feared that the incident of votes being cast by those not working or residing in the constituencies concerned would recur if the problem was not checked now.

He said Umno wanted the EC's current list of voters to be reviewed and replaced with a new and more accurate list.

Dr Mahathir said Umno was thinking of what to do next regarding the matter and wanted further clarification from the EC.

"PAS has used this tactic in several elections in the past and this must be stopped right now," he said.

-- BERNAMA

AZH MAM JK