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Rafidah urges Election Commission to clean up electoral rolls

SEREMBAN, Sun. - Wanita Umno chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz has asked the Election Commission (EC) to ensure that a single version of untainted electoral roll be used for elections.

Rafidah said the EC had admitted to her that two sets of voters' lists were used in her parliamentary constituency of Kuala Kangsar in the 1999 general election.

She said she found out about the two sets during nominations for a state seat in the constituency.

She said the seconder's name appeared in the list she had, but not in the one held by the returning officer.

Checks with the EC in Kuala Lumpur showed there were indeed two versions of the electoral roll, she said after giving away prizes for a Quran-reading and Nasyid competition organised by Negri Sembilan Wanita Umno here today.

"How the two versions came about we don't know. The EC should investigate," she said.

She said this when asked to comment on EC secretary Datuk Wan Ahmad Wan Omar's statement that the transfer of certain registered voters to the Pendang parliamentary and Anak Bukit State constituencies in Kedah in the July 18 by-elections might have been done by temporary clerks appointed by EC.

Rafidah also expressed hope that there would not be any phantom voters in future elections.

The EC should clean up the roll and ensure that only registered voters are allowed to vote in the constituencies mentioned, she said.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting on Friday, claimed that Pas retained the Anak Bukit seat in the by-election with the help of phantom voters.

Dr Mahathir said Pas had transferred its supporters from other areas to vote in the constituency.

In Kuala Kedah, Kedah Umno chief Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain urged the EC to quickly resolve the problem of phantom voters.

"This is not fair as Pas won the seat not because it was voted in by local voters. It won with the help of outsiders," he said after visiting Pulau Payar.

Meanwhile, the DAP today called for an independent commission of inquiry to look into Dr Mahathir's allegations as well as the nation-wide problem of phantom voters in the last general election.

Chairman Lim Kit Siang said in Penang the Government should let the commission establish the truth.

He said there was no dispute, however, about the long-standing problem of phantom voters planted in various constituencies to manipulate the outcome of election results, marring the credibility and integrity of Malaysian elections.

He called for a clean-up of the electoral list where all phantom voters are removed.

"The EC should convene an all-party meeting to work out a national strategy and operation to cleanse the electoral of phantom voters within six months."

He said this would ensure that following the new redelineation of electoral constituencies next year, Malaysia could rightly claim to have

taken the first step to conduct a free, fair and clean election.