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Umno leaders unable to accept results, says Pas

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Pas today said Umno leaders had continued to level accusations at the Opposition because they were unable to accept the results of the Anak Bukit and Pendang by-elections.

"It is hard for them (Umno) to come to terms with this," said Pas information chief Azizan Abdul Razak.

"First they said we used rough campaign tactics, and now they are accusing us of bringing in phantom voters."

Azizan, who is Kedah Pas Commissioner and Anak Bukit state and Pendang parliamentary by-elections director, said it was Pas and its allies that were trying hard to stop phantom voters from casting their votes in Anak Bukit and Pendang on the eve of the July 18 by-elections.

He was responding to the call by Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to the Election Commission to review the voters' list for all constituencies, saying the list was rigged by Pas to accommodate phantom voters.

Dr Mahathir said after an Umno supreme council meeting yesterday that the party discovered that Pas had used such tactics in the by-elections.

He had said Pas' strategy had prevented Barisan Nasional from winning the Anak Bukit state seat, and the Pendang parliamentary seat with a bigger majority.

Pas won in Anak Bukit by a 508-vote majority, whereas BN managed to wrest Pendang from Pas by a 283-vote majority.

The EC had used the electoral rolls which it updated until June 28 for the by-elections.

DAP chairman Lim Kit Siang called on the EC to launch a six-month exercise, involving all political parties, to clean up the electoral rolls of phantom voters.

He said the EC should also define a person with no residential or work ties with a constituency where he or she is registered as a phantom voters, and make it an offence under the Election Offences Act.