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Rafidah-EC  
CLEAN UP ELECTORAL ROLLS, SAYS RAFIDAH

SEREMBAN, Sept 1 (Bernama) -- Wanita Umno chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz has asked the Election Commission (EC) to ensure that a single version of untainted electoral rolls is used for future 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 discrepancy 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 that there were indeed two versions of electoral rolls, she told reporters after giving away prizes for a Quran-reading and Nasyid competition organised by Negeri Sembilan Wanita Umno here today.

"How the two versions came about we don't know. The EC should investigate and if it (discrepancy) causes problems to voters, the matter should be rectified," 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 during the July 18 by-elections might have been done by temporary clerks appointed by EC.

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

The EC should clean up the rolls and ensure that registered voters were eligible 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 picked by local voters but with the help of outsiders," he told reporters after visiting Pulau Payar.

In SUNGAI BESAR, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohamed Khir Toyo said EC workers should be more professional when discharging their duties.

A higher level of professionalism among EC workers would enhance the commission's integrity in conducting elections, he said.

"If the EC wants to be an independent body, it should ensure that none of its officers and workers are inclined towards any political party," he told reporters after opening the annual meeting of 41 Puteri Umno branches in the Tanjong Karang Division.

-- BERNAMA  
RIZ YBY