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MCA to set up task force to counter, expose electoral fraud

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - MCA will set up a task force to counter and expose possible electoral fraud by the Opposition, especially in constituencies where Barisan Nasional had only won narrowly in the 1999 general election.

The proposed task force will monitor the electoral roll and gather complaints from voters in these constituencies. Special attention will be given to Kedah, Perlis and Pahang which are being targetted by the Opposition.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, saying this today, added that the chairman and members of the body will be appointed during the next party presidential council meeting.

"We want to see how many voters in the electoral roll that should not be there or are imported," said Dr Ling who is also Transport Minister after opening the Malaysian Cup Flower Horn Competition and Exhibition.

The task force, through the respective MCA divisional leaders, will also gather complaints from legitimate voters whose names were missing from the electoral roll.

Dr Ling said many voters who found their names missing on polling day did not complain and this might work to the advantage of the Opposition.

"We will do random checks on the electoral roll, especially if we think the seat is being targetted by the Opposition," he added.

Last week, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad alleged that Pas had used underhand tactics to win the recent Anak Bukit by-election.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president had said that the Election Commission must step in and immediately address the "scam" where the voters' list had been allegedly rigged to accommodate phantom voters.

He also said the present list did not reflect the actual voters composition in constituencies but had been manipulated to allow voters from other areas to come in and vote for Pas.