

06/09/2002

Major Umno operation to check electoral roll

Ainon Mohd; Nik Imran Abdullah

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Umno will conduct a nationwide operation to check documents and the electoral roll of every constituency to ensure that they are free of fraudulent practices, party information chief Tan Sri Megat Junid Megat Ayob said today.

He said Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak was heading the committee which is drawing up this comprehensive action plan to check any irregularity such as en bloc registration of imported and phantom voters.

Megat Junid said Najib as the chairman of the party's voters committee would lead his team to compile all the details and table the findings to the Umno supreme council.

"Any evidence of irregularities will be submitted to the supreme council which will then study the next course of action."

Megat Junid also said that the party had requested Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim to look into the legality of the matter due to the absence of a law preventing the transferring or reregistering of voters to the selected constituencies or the changing of stated polling centres.

Last week, Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad alleged that Pas had used underhand tactics to win the last by-elections in Kedah, especially in the Anak Bukit State constituency.

To this, Megat Junid said Najib would first study the Anak Bukit electoral roll followed by other constituencies.

"We want to gather more details on how they moved voters. The operation which would be on-going was on the directive of the party's supreme council which wanted an accurate list and information on the electoral roll to prevent problems in the future.

"We hope to have the most up-to-date and accurate list of Umno members and avoid a recurrence as in Anak Bukit and Pendang."

Meanwhile, Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said in Kuala Terengganu that the action plan would prevent any overlapping of voters' names in the electoral roll and any listing of phantom and imported voters.

He said the plan would be used as a guideline for Umno to take action if the problem of phantom and imported voters persisted.

"All the State Umno liaison committees have been told to check the electoral rolls in their respective areas so that there will not be two different sets of rolls when the general election comes," he told reporters after launching an open day for Radio Malaysia Terengganu at RTM transmission station in Cabang Tiga.

He said other Barisan Nasional component parties should also check the electoral roll to ensure there were no imported voters in the list.

Meanwhile, MIC vice-president Datuk S. Veerasingham said the party had not detected problems of "imported" voters in any of its constituencies.

However, he said the party was not taking anything for granted and MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu had asked all State leaders, Members of Parliament and Assemblymen to monitor the situation.

"We will scrutinise the voter registration list in our respective areas," he said in Kuala Lumpur.