

31/08/2002

Umno wants EC to review all voters' lists

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Umno wants the voters' list in all the parliamentary and State constituencies reviewed as the existing one failed to reflect the actual composition of voters.

Party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Election Commission must step in and take immediate measures to address the "scam" as the voters' list in the country had been rigged, in order to accommodate phantom voters.

"It is evident that the existing list does not reflect the actual voters composition in constituencies, instead it (list) has been manipulated to accommodate voters from other areas who came in to vote for Pas.

"We know very clearly that this is the workings of Pas because they have also directed their workers to transfer voters (their supporters) and to facilitate migration of voters to target areas (areas where Pas stands a better chance of winning)."

Speaking at a Press conference after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting at Menara Dato Onn here today, the Prime Minister said the EC should take the matter very seriously as this had indirectly revoked the voting rights of Umno and Barisan Nasional supporters who had been illegally transferred out from their voting constituencies.

He said a post-mortem conducted after the recent Anak Bukit State and Pendang parliamentary by-elections proved this point when more than 500 phantom voters (Pas supporters), not only from other constituencies in Kedah but from constituencies as far as Terengganu and Negri Sembilan, were discovered in just four ballot boxes.

"We have proof to show that these people are not born there, not working there, not residents and do not even own a house in the constituencies.

"But they are registered in the Anak Bukit and Pendang constituencies without a proper address ...just by the name of the kampung, these are the actual phantom voters and they are all Pas people," Dr Mahathir said.

On top of such manipulations, Dr Mahathir said, 1,359 Umno supporters could not cast their votes in both the areas as their names were removed from the voting list.

"We are very unhappy because we should have won in Anak Bukit and obtained a bigger majority in Pendang. All together there were 14 ballot boxes and we have identified 500 phantom voters in just four areas (ballot boxes) ... throughout the nation we do not know how many hundreds of thousands (of voters) who have been moved.

"This is perplexing as there seems to be two different voters' lists. The one that is provided to Umno carries the names of all, but when our people go in to cast their votes, their names were missing from the list at the polling stations," Dr Mahathir said.

He added that Pas had embarked on such dirty tactics realising that it could not possibly win in a situation where their grassroots support was scattered.

Dr Mahathir said Pas was worried that Umno might embark on a similar tactic.

"That is why they stop buses carrying our supporters ...we have not done such things but Pas, in the past few years, had transferred their supporters from areas where they have no hope of winning at all to marginal areas.

"They make sure that their supporters are able to form a majority in

areas where the situation is 50/50 ...they add a least 2,000 more voters to these areas to tilt the balance in their favour."

The Prime Minister said the current predicament was not new as such "scams" existed even during the last general election in 1999, when the names of the proposer and seconder for the Kuala Kangsar Member of Parliament (Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz) were missing from the voters' list in the area.

"Since there is the on-going voters' registration, and we do not know when they are going to end ...we fear that suddenly there will be a new list.

"We will submit an official complaint to the EC as we want to know the exact situation and what was actually happening," Dr Mahathir said, reiterating that Pas might continue to transfer its supporters from BN strongholds like Johor to states like Kedah.

"Even voters from Sabah and Sarawak have been moved to Anak Bukit," he said, justifying Umno's concerns.

Last month, EC chairman Datuk Abdul Rashid Abdul Rahman acknowledged that some of EC's temporary staff had been found to have conspired with certain political parties and manipulated the electoral roll.

Abdul Rashid said the culprits had virtually "sold" themselves to a certain political party, which induced them to manipulate the electoral roll.

He had said the employees had illegally shifted voters from one constituency to another even from one State to another.