

06 SEP 2002
Rafidah-List

WANITA UMNO SCRUTINISING ELECTORAL ROLL SINCE LAST YEAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 6 (Bernama) -- Wanita Umno has been gathering the latest information on the electoral rolls since last year, said its head Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz.

"Wanita Umno has long been working to gather the latest information on the electoral roll...we have made CD Roms and hard copies which were distributed to all (Umno) divisions.

"The information contain the list of voters, identity card numbers. They also contain the list of voters in a particular area and the names of voters that have been cancelled," she told reporters after opening Universiti Putra Malaysia's 26th Convocation Fair, here today.

Rafidah was commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement last week directing all Umno leaders, especially branch heads, to study the electoral rolls in their respective areas to ensure that voters were not moved to other areas and to look out for phantom voters.

Dr Mahathir said the directive was to ensure that the emergence of "phantom voters" or "imported voters" was not repeated as had happened during the by-elections for the Anak Bukit state seat and Pendang parliamentary seat in Kedah recently.

Rafidah, who is also International Trade and Industry Minister, said based on the electoral roll gazetted up to February 2000, Wanita Umno had detected about 700,000 names of voters that had been cancelled from the Election Commission's (EC) list.

"Out of the 700,000 names that have been cancelled, 500,000 of them have raised doubts...this is what worries us," she said.

However, Rafidah acknowledged that there were weaknesses in Umno in preparing the list of voters as not all branches were truly active in studying the electoral rolls.

She said she had asked Barisan Nasional (BN) Wanita wings, particular Wanita Umno and Puteri, to take a major role in the BN machinery in tackling disputes in the electoral rolls.

She said although the process was difficult, a clean electoral roll could be achieved if all these problems could be eliminated.

She said the scrutiny by the Umno machinery would subsequently be referred to the EC for further action.

Meanwhile, Rafidah said the move by PAS, which had admitted transferring its voters from certain areas to its targeted areas, meant that it had violated the voters' basic rights.

"The admission means that they have violated the basic rights of the people to vote...relocating them, this is wrong..." she said.

She said the power to choose the constituencies for the people to vote in did not lie in the hands of others including PAS or Umno, on the contrary, there were certain rules that must be followed.

She was commenting on the statement by Kedah PAS commissioner Azizan Abdul Razak yesterday admitting that the party had moved its voters from certain areas to the targeted areas in its strategy to take over Kedah.

Azizan was quoted as saying that the action plan was contained in a working paper entitled The Year To Capture Kedah 2003 which was decided at a PAS seminar in the year 2000.

The PAS move was disclosed by Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak by exposing a secret Kedah PAS document which planned the movement of

its voters in all the State Assembly constituencies to capture Kedah in the next general election.

On the EC's decision which described the Umno complaint over the existence of phantom voters as "too late", Rafidah said many complaints had been made before this by Umno.

"(We have) more than complained, but probably they did not reach the level of the decision makers, but now the EC need not wait for official complaints because the complaints have been publicised...treat whatever we have submitted as an open complaint," she said.

-- BERNAMA

SNS AHH AO