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Parliament-Constitution (Moving)

ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVISION TO ACCOMMODATE ADDITIONAL VOTERS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 24 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, told the Dewan Rakyat today that electoral boundaries had to be revised to accommodate the bigger number of voters in the country.

The last electoral boundary redelineation was done in 1994, he said when moving the Constitution (Amendment) Bill to provide for the revision of electoral boundaries.

During the last electoral revision for Sabah and the peninsula, there were 7.43 million voters and the number had been increasing from year to year.

According to the electoral roll confirmed by the Election Commission on Dec 27, 2001, the number of voters in the peninsula and Sabah had increased to 9.08 million.

"This means that since 1994 the number of voters in the peninsula and Sabah had increased by about 1.65 million."

This meant there had been a 23 per cent increase in the number of voters in the peninsula and Sabah since 1994, he said.

The Bill would amend Article 46 of the Federal Constitution to provide for an increase in the number of seats in the Dewan Rakyat from 194 to 219 and to increase the number of state constituencies by 63.

Dr Mahathir said Sarawak was not included in the electoral revision as a revision was made there in 1996 and the next revision under the state constitution could only be made after eight years from that date.

He said the EC had altered the electoral boundaries for Sabah and all states in the peninsula except Perlis in line with the principles stipulated in the Federal Constitution either involving additional seats or otherwise.

"There are no additional Parliamentary seats for Perlis, Kelantan, Terengganu and Kedah as the EC feels the existing seats will suffice," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said the important result of this revision was that constituencies which were vast and made it difficult for elected representatives to visit and meet the people had been made smaller with a reasonable number of voters.

Constituencies with a big number of voters had also been reduced following the revision, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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