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Lim: Clean up electoral rolls first

Sajahan Waheed

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Gerakan will propose to the Barisan Nasional supreme council that the general election should only be called after the Election Commission has cleaned up the electoral rolls.

Its president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said today that at present there were far too many discrepancies in the list and Gerakan had submitted several reports on this matter to the EC.

"The general election should be held only after we are fully satisfied with the electoral list.

"At present there are many flaws in it.

"Many names of our members and those who have voted in the constituency for a long time are missing.

"Gerakan and the other BN component parties have done our homework and we have detected these flaws especially concerning missing voters' names," said Dr Lim, who is also the Primary Industries Minister, after chairing Gerakan's central committee meeting at the party headquarters.

He said this was the main issue discussed during the meeting.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had in August asked the EC to review the electoral list as the existing one failed to reflect the actual composition of voters.

Dr Mahathir said the EC must step in and take immediate measures to address the "irregularity" as the voters' list in the country had been rigged, to accommodate phantom voters.

Dr Lim said there was still a lot which the EC had to do to clean up the electoral list to ensure there would not be any more complaints.

He said Gerakan had also submitted enquiries to the EC on the redelineation exercise which affected both Parliamentary and State seats held by the party.

"There are certain constituencies like Taiping and Nibong Tebal where the redelineation exercise questions as to why some voters are moved from one area to another.

"We have written to the EC on this and they have called us for discussions on certain constituencies."

Asked whether BN was ready to face the general election, Dr Lim replied: "I think BN should not build up the election fever.

"Leave that to the Opposition.

"When the time comes for the election, we will be prepared."