

EC: No symbols of Pakatan partners allowed
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Only the parties of candidates contesting in the 10th Sarawak state election on April 16 can use logos, flags, posters and banners in constituencies contested, the Election Commission reminded today.

EC deputy chairperson Wan Ahmad Wan Omar said parties not in the fray cannot take advantage of the election to put up their own flags, logos or other material together with the parties that are contesting.

"Only the parties of candidates contesting and have paid the required deposit for putting up campaigning material are allowed to do so. Other parties cannot hitch a ride and put up their material as well," he told reporters after attending a briefing on the EC's Sibuluan zone election monitoring team in Sibuluan.

As an example, he said, if the DAP was contesting a particular seat, other parties like PKR, PAS and Snap, despite being in the same pact, are not allowed to put up their own election material.

"However, if more than one of these parties are contesting the same seat, they can (put up campaigning material). As for candidates having pictures of their party leaders besides their own (in campaigning material), it is not a problem," he said.

"For example, let's say a DAP candidate is contesting, besides posters of the candidate, they can put up posters bearing the picture of Lim Kit Siang (DAP national advisor).

"This is allowed but they cannot put up posters having the picture of Anwar Ibrahim (PKR advisor), unless PKR is also contesting the same seat," he added.

Asked about the appeal by Parti Cinta Malaysia (PCM) to be allowed to use its logo in this election, Wan Ahmad said the EC would be deliberating the matter at its next meeting.

PCM has been registered as a political party with the Registrar of Societies but has not registered its logo with the EC to enable it to use the logo in any election.

In the last Sarawak state election in 2006, Gabriel Adit Demong won the Ngemah seat as an Independent candidate before joining PKR in 2008 and then PCM.

Wan Ahmad also reminded those interested in contesting this time around to get the nomination forms early and not wait till the last minute.

"The forms can be obtained at state EC offices. They can also be purchased from the Returning Officers of each constituency.

"Don't wait till the eleventh hour and then blame the EC that there are not enough forms," he said.

Nomination is on April 6 and polling on April 16.

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