

PAS: Najib's attitude killed interest in PSC
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PAS may not participate in the parliamentary select committee (PSC) on electoral reform mooted by Prime Minister Najib Razak, following the government's attitude that increasingly reveals to be insincere.

PAS vice president Salahuddin Ayub (left) said instead, PAS stands firm that a royal commission of inquiry should be set up to ensure free and fair elections.

"While before this PAS was already very careful about giving any sort of commitment to the parliamentary select committee suggested by Najib, his latest statement has totally killed off any interest we have for the committee," he said.

He described the PM's statement that the next general election could be called anytime without waiting for the PSC as proof of Umno and Najib's arrogance.

"That arrogant statement just strengthens PAS' stand that Najib is only putting up a show when publicly announcing the suggestion to set up the committee, and the truth is neither he nor Umno has ever been serious in confronting the demands for electoral reform," said Salahuddin.

Meanwhile on the matter of engaging with international organisations to spread the word about the people's demands for free and fair elections, the Kuban Kerian MP said details will be announced soon.

Salahuddin said that was part of an international awareness campaign.

"Awareness about the demands (for electoral reforms) needs to be spread throughout the international stage," he said.

'What's the point in voting?'

Meanwhile PAS information chief Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man said the PSC, meant to guarantee a clean and fair electoral system, was pointless following Najib's statement that he could call elections anytime.

"What's the use of forming the committee, if the government has already given the impression that the general election will be held before the committee completes its work, and given clear indication that the BN government is in fact not prepared to accept and rectify whatever weaknesses exist (in the electoral system)," he said in a statement today.

"It is imperative for the rakyat that initiatives to correct the weaknesses in the system and address their lack of confidence in it are carried out..."

"If not, what is the use of the rakyat going to vote if the results of the election do not reflect their true desires, but reflect instead the intentions of phantom voters and the multitude of foreigners mobilised to bring victory to certain parties' candidates?" said Tuan Ibrahim (above).

The ustaz said the government should be well aware of the public's anger towards the electoral system, as shown during the Bersih 2.0 rally on July 9.

He said the government's insistence on holding elections regardless, will "invite outrage of the people" and fuel dwindling confidence in the elections.

"The insincerity of the BN government is also expected to spur the people's opposition, and as a result heighten the resolve for a Bersih 3.0," he said.

Tuan Ibrahim added that it would be “irresponsible” to hold elections knowing the electoral system is seriously flawed.

He said PAS will be holding an emergency meeting to weigh the issue of participating in the PSC that is now rendered practically “meaningless” by Najib's statements.

Further, he said Pakatan will meet on Aug 24 to discuss the issue and their response to Najib's stand.

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