

SAPP duo wants in on PSC

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Two Sabah MPs are crying foul over the composition of the parliamentary select committee (PSC) on electoral reforms because it is not adequately represented by Sabahans.

parliament sapp pc 171108 eric majimbun chua soon buiSepangga MP Eric Majimbun (left in photo) and Tawau MP Chua Soon Bui (right in photo) said they felt neglected for not being appointed into the PSC which was established yesterday.

The Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP) duo told reporters at the Parliament lobby that although Kota Marudu MP Maximus Johnity Ongkili was chairing the PSC, he could not voice his concerns independently.

“Maximus is heading it, being a cabinet minister. As a minister, he has to take care of his position, and of course it will jeopardise his position in the cabinet if he is to voice out all the problems in Sabah.

“At the end of the day, it is the cabinet that decides, therefore it is more critical to have a member from Sabah who is free from a decision-making position and the cabinet,” said Majimbun.

Ongkili is the science, technology and innovation minister.

Stressing that the Sabah situation was critical and complex, Majimbun said that previously, another cabinet minister, Bernard Dompok, had headed a PSC on national integrity but failed to produce any results, causing him to resign in February 2008.

“It could not proceed because of the reluctance of the officers to help in the settlement of problems in Sabah (at that point).

“The issue of illegal immigrants granted citizenship through the back door and now they have become voters... is a critical problem that we should address for the sake of all Malaysians,” he added.

According to Majimbun, he and Chua had written to Dewan Rakyat speaker Pandikar Amin Mulia last month when Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak announced the government’s decision to set up the committee, but were yet to receive any response.

Population boom

Chua, on the other hand, highlighted that out of Sabah’s 3,206,742 population, only 72 percent are citizens and 27.7 percent are immigrants, referring to the Economic Planning Unit’s Population and Housing Census 2010.

azlan“We want to know if these immigrants have voting rights (because) from past experience, there have been a lot of ICs given and many others who are too old to vote. For instance, 666 voters in Tawau are above the age of 90 and the oldest is 127 years old.

“So we want all these problems to be fleshed out... all these problems are in Sabah but there is only one representative from East Malaysia, who is from Sarawak,” said Chua.

The nine members comprise five BN parliamentarians, three from Pakatan Rakyat and one Independent.

Beside Ongkili, the other four BN representatives are Kapit MP Alexander Nanta Linggi (PBB), Kangar MP Mohd Radzi Sheikh Ahmad (Umno), Alor Gajah MP Fong Chan Onn (MCA), and Hulu Selangor MP P Kamalanathan (MIC).

Pakatan representatives are Gombak parliamentary Azmin Ali (PKR), Kuala Krai MP Dr Hatta Ramli (PAS) and Rasah MP Anthony Loke (DAP). Wangsa Maju MP Wee Choo Keong represents the Independent bloc.

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