

Dead voters missing from latest electoral roll
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Opposition parties are furious that the supplementary electoral roll for the fourth quarter of 2011 displayed around the country did not include lists of dead voters whose names have been removed from the master roll.

According to Johor PAS Youth election bureau chief Mohd Faizul Mohd Salleh, all previous supplementary electoral rolls published the list of voters who had died, together with newly-registered voters, voters who had changed their addresses and voters whose citizenship had been revoked during that particular quarter.

The EC displayed the supplementary electoral roll for the last quarter of 2011 for public scrutiny from Feb 8 to 14.

"However, there was something unusual with the supplementary roll this time. The list of dead voters was not published together with the other lists of voters whose status had been changed," Faizul said in a statement yesterday.

This unprecedented practice, he said, was not in line with the principle of transparency that the Election Commission (EC) was trying to portray, said Faizul, who also asked, "What is EC trying to hide?"

He urged the EC to explain the absence of the dead voters list and to publish the full list.

"I checked with colleagues in the other states, including Terengganu, they also have the same complaint," he told Malaysiakini when contacted.

A check with the election bureau of Perak PKR and Penang DAP revealed that the two states faced the same problem.

Two-week display period

Under the existing system, the EC is required to publish - every three months - the quarterly supplementary electoral roll containing changes in the status of voters in all constituencies, such as inflow and outflow of voters due to change of address, death, loss of citizenship as well as newly-registered voters.

An example of the supplementary roll for a voting locality is shown here.

Members of public can lodge complaints against 'dubious' entries in the supplementary roll during the two-week display period for investigation by the EC before it gazettes the final list.

The gazetted supplementary roll will then be merged with the master electoral roll and used in the election.

Should the 13th general election be held in the next three months, it is likely that this supplementary roll for fourth quarter of 2011 will be included by the EC.

Malaysiakini has informed the EC about the complaints on the missing lists of dead voters and is awaiting its official response.

Yesterday, the Home Ministry said that the names of dead voters can now be deleted from the electoral

roll immediately by the EC.

The ministry secretary-general, Mahmood Adam, said this was made possible through the linking up of the online network between the National Registration Department and various agencies.

According to Negri Sembilan DAP chief Anthony Loke, who had conveyed the issue to EC secretary Kamaruddin Baria through the telephone, the latter told him that EC is not legally obliged to provide the list.

“He said if I want the list, I can write him an official letter and he will send the list to me,” Loke told Malaysiakini yesterday.

Unhappy with the reply, the Rasah MP will raise this issue to the parliamentary select committee on electoral reform.

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