

EC: MB's voting zone not shifted, boundary revised

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By Aidila Razak

The Election Commission clarified today that Selangor Menteri Besar Abdul Khalid Ibrahim is now a voter in Lembah Pantai, despite previously voting in a neighbouring parliamentary seat, following a constituency boundary correction exercise.

kuala terengganu parliament by election spr ec announcement 051208 wan ahmad wan omarAccording to EC deputy chairperson Wan Ahmad Wan Omar, the exercise had been carried out in early 2010 in accordance with the EC's decision to synchronise electoral maps with the country's official map.

He said the MB had registered as a voter at Jalan 16/2 in Section 16, Petaling Jaya, which was erroneously included as part of the Petaling Jaya Selatan constituency prior to the correction exercise.

When electoral maps and official maps were synchronised using a geographical system, it was found that Jalan 16/2 actually fell under the Rumah Kakitangan Universiti voting zone, which is under the Lembah Pantai constituency.

"He has not been moved. He is still registered at the same address, but the boundaries have been corrected in accordance with the Election Act 1958," Wan Ahmad said when contacted.

Same case in Hulu Selangor

He said the boundary correction exercise was also the reason 228 voters who had previously voted in Hulu Selangor found themselves to be voters in the Selayang constituency during the Hulu Selangor parliamentary by-election.

"There was a lot of confusion and the political parties exploited this confusion. So we decided in 2011 to freeze all boundary correction exercises," he said.

Wan Ahmad said the boundary corrections would be done alongside the re-delineation exercise scheduled to be carried out after the 13th general election.

"At that point, we will display all the changes made and voters who are affected can make objections.

"We have to make the changes, or else voters will continue to vote in the wrong constituencies," he said

Wan Ahmad added that besides Selangor, several other states had undergone the boundary correction exercise before it was frozen, including Kelantan and Perak.

Malaysiakini had reported earlier in the day that Khalid was in the dark about the change in his voting constituency, since he had not applied for a change of address and that the address on his identity card remained Pasir Tuntung in Kuala Selangor, which is his hometown.

