

**'LGBT claim' will not disrupt Bersih rally**

**MalaysiaKini.com**

**April 24, 2012**

**By Hafiz Yatim**

Bersih co-chairperson Ambiga Sreenevasan says her support for sexual minorities such as the lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transexuals (LGBT) will not affect Saturday's rally for clean and fair elections.

The Bersih rally is a public forum for the benefit of all Malaysians who want to seek a clean electoral roll and a transparent voting system, Ambiga said.

The woes of the LGBT, she said, are another public cause and her involvement in that does not hamper her support for a bigger cause for electoral reform as it is a different issue.

NONE Ambiga has been under fire for backing the LGBT cause and former PAS deputy president Nasharuddin Md Isa said she was not fit to lead the Bersih rally.

Over the weekend, about 1,000 anti-LGBT protesters gathered at Universiti Putra Malaysia in Serdang to ridicule and condemn the LGBT, Ambiga and her Bersih co-chairperson and national laureate A Samad Said.

Ambiga has been under attack ever since she was scheduled to officiate the Seksualiti Merdeka event last November, which the police and other authorities banned, calling it a "threat to public order".

On the highly questioned electoral roll, Bersih steering committee member Maria Chin Abdullah clarified today that only 45 out of 24,105 voters from Sabah and Sarawak have double registration in Selangor.

She said political scientist Ong Kian Ming discovered that there were two identity cards of a person with the same name but different numbers.

"These people are voters in Sabah and Sarawak and also in Selangor. This is an example of the discrepancies that are happening. Hence, this should be rectified before the election is called," Maria said.

Of the 24,105 voters, 15,520 are from Sabah and another 8,585 are from Sarawak.

On April 12, Bersih had wrongly claimed that more than 24,000 voters in Selangor have double registration as voters.

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