

**Let polls observers speak to the media, says Nurul
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By Koh Jun Lin**

Election observers should be allowed access to speak to the media while elections are still ongoing, said Lembah Pantai MP Nurul Izzah Anwar.

She said this at a press conference yesterday when asked to comment about the government's move to let international observers monitor the next general election, which needs to be called by April next year.

"It is not enough to give space to international observers, but election observers, whether foreign or domestic, must be given media access during the elections," she said.

Nurul Izzah, who is also a PKR vice-president, described it as a positive step forward, but cautioned, "We don't want them to come and find themselves under a gag order."

She pointed out that Commonwealth observers had monitored Malaysia's 1990 general election, but their report was never made public.

In addition, she said besides inviting observers and allowing them to speak to the press, the Election Commission (EC) would also need to spell out its steps to "clean" the electoral roll before it could inspire public confidence.

The EC announced on June 25 that it has selected several local poll observers and intends to invite international observers.

However, they would be subject to a number of conditions, including not being allowed to speak to the media or give statements regarding the election.

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