

'Absent voters' appeal postponed

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The Court of Appeal had allowed an application for a adjournment by six Malaysian expatriates seeking to overturn a lower court decision barring them from being registered as absent voters.

October 24 has been set for hearing to allow time for the Dewan Rakyat to convene and amend election laws.

Edmund Bon who appeared for the applicants, told the court that Election Commission(EC) chief Abdul Aziz Mohd Yusof has proposed to amend election regulations pertaining to the implementation of overseas voting system.

"This is exactly what my clients want, and I have been instructed to apply for adjournment, to allow the (parliamentary) process to happen," he told the court.

Bon said his clients could only decide on the necessary follow up measures after the Dewan Rakyat session convenes.

The three member panel of judges led by justice Abdul Malik Ishak allowed the application while senior federal counsel Armajeet Singh who represent the EC, the respondent in the case, agreed to it.

The six United Kingdom based applicants are Dr Teo Hoon Seong, V Vinesh, Paramjeet Singh, Yolanda Sydney Augustin, Sim Tze Wei and Leong See See.

On Jan 6, The Kuala Lumpur High Court had dismissed their application for a declaration that they are citizens living abroad and have the right to be registered as an absent voter instead of an ordinary voter.

They also sought a court order to compel the EC into registering them as absent voters.

Abdul Aziz has announced earlier this month that Malaysian expatriates can vote by post in the next general election following the legal amendments.

However, the amendments will include a condition that to maintain eligibility, the voters must return to Malaysia once every five years.

He argued that this was necessary for the voters to understand the local political situation.