

Steep spike in voters on Sabah roll in 80s, 90s

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SABAH RCI There was a huge spike in voters on the Sabah electoral roll in the 1982, 1990 and 1994 general elections, compared to the respective previous elections, the royal commission of inquiry (RCI) on illegal immigrants in Sabah was told.

In 1982, the number of those eligible to vote surged by nearly 150,000 people compared the previous election in 1978.

In 1978, there were 208,861 eligible voters while in 1982 the number ballooned to 358,609 - an increase of 72 percent.

"This is a a very big increase," RCI conducting officer Manoj Kurup remarked.

To this, witness Yusniati Ishak, who is the Election Commission Voters' Registration Department secretary, said that she agreed.

EC data tendered as evidence to the RCI shows the bump in 1982 bucked the trend in Sabah where the number of eligible voters was on a decline between 1969 to 1978.

bn supreme council mt meeting sapp sabah issue 190608 pairin kitinganHaris Salleh from Berjaya was chief minister from 1976 until 1985, when he was replaced by PBS' Joseph Pairin Kitingan (left).

The Sabah electoral roll continued to grow since then, with notable jumps in the 1990 and 1994 elections.

The number rose by 120,515 voters in 1990 compared to 1986, and by 103,107 voters in 1994 compared to 1990.

Pairin remained as chief minister until 1994, and was replaced by Sakaran Dandai of Umno in March 1994 after defections which caused the collapse of the PBS government.

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