

**Citizenship-for-votes deal in the works, claims Mahfuz  
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Pokok Sena PAS parliamentarian Mahfuz Omar has accused the BN government of engaging in its own version of 'human trafficking' for political benefit.

He pointed to an operation at Kompleks Integrasi Warisan in Salak Tinggi, Sepang, where he alleged the government launched a campaign to get permanent resident (PR) holders from Cambodia and Indonesia to apply for citizenship.

"My suspicion is that they will fill the electoral roll in the coming general election. As part of their psychological warfare, the government had earlier announced that there are large numbers of Malaysians who have not registered as voters, including about two million Malays.

NONE" It is these Malay-sounding names that will be used to fill the electoral roll. This may be a repeat of what happened in Sabah previously, the infamous Project M, where illegal immigrants were issued identity cards to vote. This involved Yong Teck Lee, I believe, and judge Kamil Awang proved that such things have taken place," pointed out Mahfuz (left).

He added that he had asked a question in the House today to clarify how many PR holders there were, state by state, indicating his fear that PR holders may be used to load the dice against the opposition in the next general election.

He explained that during the operation that took place between June 15 to 17 at the Komplek Integrasi Warisan, government officials gave briefings to the PR holders and distributed citizenship application forms to them.

Function to present blue identity cards

The Pokok Sena parliamentarian added that on July 3 in Zentrum Hall in Setiawangsa, near Datuk Keramat in Kuala Lumpur, a function was held to present those who had their citizenship applications successfully processed with their blue identity cards.

"These people are from Cambodia and Indonesia. They never applied until they were asked to pohon for citizenship. One of the things told to them during the briefing at the event was not to forget to support the government."

He added that activists from PAS, PKR and DAP went to the venue to take pictures and had lodged a police report on July 10, as they feared that this might be a syndicate selling citizenships to PR holders.

The activists held a press conference about the incident yesterday.

Mahfuz said yesterday, there was a similar programme to campaign for PR holders to apply for citizenship at the compound of the surau in the Taman Melati Indonesian village.

"Is this an illegal syndicate? Does it involve the collusion of officers from government agencies and departments? Or is this an official government programme, since the government officials present all seemed to be legitimate?" asked the PAS leader.

Mahfuz added that he was informed about the alleged government programme by PR

holders who were suspicious of the apparent ease with which they were offered citizenship.

"I met them together with YB Kamaruddin Jaafar, but I cannot disclose their identities for their own safety," he said.

Hisham: It's not true

Meanwhile, in an immediate reaction to the media, Home Minister Hishammuddin Hussein refuted Mahfuz's allegations.

"It's not true. Of course not. If he has factual cases, bring them to me, because the issue of citizenship is not a light matter. Those citizenships that I have processed are outstanding cases, some of them (pending) for 20 or 30 years."

He said that the applications he processed were applications that fulfilled strict conditions, specifically in the context of citizenships which were delayed. He added that it was impossible to hold an event to distribute the ICs because it's not a right but a privilege for those who are eligible.

"So, the accusation that this is happening not only saddens me but perhaps questions the thousands of applications we solved last year. There is no political consideration, not to get new voters because those who got it (citizenship) have been waiting for years, so if there are specific cases, Mahfuz can extend them to me and we can investigate," said the minister.

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