

Clear the air, EC told

Ka Chuan: Explanation will prevent claims about electoral roll

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IPOH: The Election Commission (EC) must clear the air quickly if names of voters staying along electoral boundaries had been "transferred" to other constituencies without their knowledge.

MCA secretary-general Datuk Ong Ka Chuan said this would prevent allegations that the commission was manipulating the electoral roll.

Commenting on a recent statement by an EC member who said that the commission had received reports of such cases, Ong said the body must explain this issue.

"The EC must back up its explanation by showing the map of the delineated borders.

"The delineation exercise has been gazetted. You can't simply move voters," he said after opening the Buntong community sports league at the Buntong Rukun Tetangga yesterday.

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DATUK ONG KA CHUAN



Ong said the party was, however, confident that there was no malpractice on the part of the commission.

Earlier this month, Ipoh Barat MP M. Kulasegaran alleged that while helping his constituents in Taman Silibin check their voting status, he found that about 600 voters had been transferred to the Batu Gajah parliamentary constituency.

He said the commission then

informed him that voters in Taman Silibin were moved after the 2004 election because they were under Batu Gajah.

Following this, EC member Datuk Zainal Abidin Mat Said confirmed that the commission had received several reports on such occurrences.

On its part, Ong said the MCA was also gathering information from voters, particularly from those living

along electoral boundaries.

He noted that there had been cases of voters' polling stations being re-allocated due to a change of address in their identity cards.

On the ongoing state MCA annual general meetings this month, Ong said the meetings would focus on preparations for the coming general election.

He added that party members had visited constituents to check on and resolve their problems.

Ong also urged everyone to focus on the positive aspects of multiculturalism instead of promoting negative perceptions of the various races.

Referring to the example of SMSes being sent out blaming a particular race for the spate of crimes in Johor, he said this was most unfortunate.

"This is not good for our country. No one particular race is entirely bad," he added.