

BERSIH SLAMS PN CHAIRMAN

Muhyiddin's promise to make political appointments to GLCs is power abuse'

KUALA LUMPUR

THE Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections (Bersih) yesterday lambasted Perikatan Nasion-

al (PN) chairman Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin for his statement promising political appointments to government-linked companies (GLCs) should the coalition win in the upcoming state polls.

Bersih's Steering Committee said Muhyiddin's statement went against the practice of good governance.

"GLCs are companies that exist to preserve and increase public wealth.

"The companies are not the political parties' ATMs (automated teller machines) in which one puts in place party loyalists on

the state's payroll.

"By openly declaring his intention, we also wonder if it is a form of vote-buying to gain the support of certain groups," Bersih said yesterday.

It said this form of patronage was ingrained in the country's political culture.

"Every successive government, including the current unity government, is guilty of appointing politicians — be it elected or non-elected representatives — to the board of GLCs."

The electoral watchdog added that it had been consistent in its stand that politicians should not be appointed to GLCs.

"Their primary responsibility is to their respective constituency. They are legislators and not company directors.

"As for politicians who are not

the elected representatives, we must provide a clear and rigorous process to ensure transparency so that only suitably qualified individuals are appointed (to GLCs).

"As such, people must vote wisely in the upcoming state polls to ensure that parties and candidates that are committed to institutional reform and eliminating corruption are elected so that our country can be free from political patronage and corruption."

On Wednesday, Muhyiddin, in an interview with an online portal, said PN was ready to form the governments in six states.

He also said the coalition had even agreed on how administrative posts would be allocated among leaders of its component parties.

Muhyiddin also said these posts included those of menteri besar or chief minister, state executive councillors, heads of state GLCs, local councillors and even village security and development committee chairman.



Perikatan Nasional chairman Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin says the coalition has agreed on the formula for the allocation of administrative posts among leaders of its parties if it wins the state polls. PIC BY FAIZ ANUAR