

**Political parties laud new measures**  
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KUALA LUMPUR: The Election Commission's move to implement new measures in the next general election were welcomed by political parties as it will promote transparency and is proof of the government's commitment to electoral reforms.

Gerakan deputy president Datuk Chang Ko Youn said the EC's decision to use indelible ink and advanced voting as recommended by the Parliamentary Select Committee on Electoral Reform demonstrated Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's commitment to transform Malaysia into a fully democratic nation which responded effectively to public opinions.

"The indelible ink must be used in all elections. It is a simple, affordable and effective solution in preventing double voting.

"We do not believe that the use of indelible ink will impinge on the constitutional rights of any Malaysian," he said yesterday.

Chang also urged the EC to conduct a comprehensive study to come out with a mechanism to allow overseas Malaysians to vote.

MIC president Datuk G. Palanivel said the introduction of the indelible ink was a good move and it proved that BN was transparent.

"Now, the EC has to make sure the process is carried out properly without any confusion to the voters."

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek, in welcoming the move, hoped the opposition would refrain from politicising the matter.

"Whatever they think that is correct in the beginning is being granted by the government, they will say that the government did it because it was under pressure. So I hope the opposition will not politicise this."

Pas vice-president Salahuddin Ayub said in general, the party welcomed the move but called on the EC to hold a demonstration on the use of the ink.

On advanced voting, he said political parties should be allowed to send their polling and counting agents to monitor the process.

Parti Keadilan Rakyat vice-president Fuziah Salleh said there were still loopholes which the EC should address in the implementation of indelible ink and advanced voting.

"While indelible ink is good to ensure that a person does not vote more than once, it does not stop questionable voters from casting votes."

DAP vice-president M. Kulasegaran said the EC should not confine themselves to the recommendations of the select committee. They should consider automatic registration of voters and lowering the voting age, he added.

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