

**Regulations On Use Of Indelible Ink To Be Known On Feb 1
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 29 (Bernama) -- The decision on regulations on the use of indelible ink on voters for the coming 13th general election will be known on Feb 1.

Chairman of the Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC) for Electoral Reforms, Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili said the regulations were being drawn up and the ink content still being studied by the Chemistry Department and National Fatwa Council.

"When completed, the regulations will be tabled in parliament for approval to be enforced," he said after the sixth meeting of the PSC at parliament building, here, today.

Also present were Election Commission (EC) chairman Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Mohd Yusof and his deputy, Datuk Wan Ahmad Wan Omar.

Ongkili who is also Science, Technology and Innovation Minister, said the new indelible ink was better than that proposed for the last general election in 2008, and he was confident there would be no problems arising.

"This ink has the same substance but is supposed to be an improvement over the suggested ink for the 2008 general election," he said.

On Dec 3, the EC confirmed that indelible ink containing silver nitrate would be used in the coming general election after the PSC's request for this method to be used was agreed upon and passed by parliament.

In cleaning up the electoral role, Ongkili said the EC today handed out compact discs with 42,051 dubious names of voters to the PSC members and political parties nationwide.

"This is to enable the public and certain quarters to verify the individuals involved as the EC has for long, been looking for them."

Ongkili also disclosed that today's PSC meeting decided to re-arrange the voting centres to make the voting process more transparent, where the candidates' agents or representatives would be given more room for better scrutiny.

"For example, the seating arrangement would be such that the agents would be facing the voters, enabling them to recognise the voters and see their faces clearly," he said.

Besides that, he said, several other improvements were made including providing more suitable ballot boxes.

He also said that to date, seven of the PSC's 10 proposals made in parliament had received positive feedback from the EC.

"The PSC will function for another three months until the first week of April, and we will continue to assist the EC in terms of implementation and recommendations, subject to time

availability," he said.

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