

**Maximus targets EC to be ready to use indelible ink in two months**  
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**By Shannon Teoh**

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 1 — Datuk Seri Maximus Ongkili said today he expects the Election Commission (EC) to be ready to use indelible ink within two months.

The chairman of the parliamentary select committee on electoral reforms told reporters the use of the ink to prevent multiple voting will only require a change in electoral regulations and the EC to outline preparations needed to implement the reform.

“My target is two months. The Attorney General says he already has the draft. Now it just needs to be approved by the Cabinet and Agong,” he said after Parliament adopted the panel’s interim report which listed 10 recommendations to improve elections.

Maximus (picture) said that government agencies involved in the approved reforms will be given until next Friday to come back with timetables for implementation.

The science, technology and innovation minister said the EC will need to report back on the financial and manpower requirements to use indelible ink in a general election expected soon.

DAP parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang had called today for Parliament to compel the government to implement the 10 recommendations put forward by the parliamentary select committee on electoral reforms by January 1.

The Ipoh Timor MP said there was no “guarantee they will be implemented by the 13th general election.”

The EC had initially planned to use indelible ink, bought at a cost of RM2.4 million, for Election 2008 but backed out at the last minute, citing public order and security issues.

Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has said the EC’s last-minute decision to opt out of using the ink cost his coalition 15 federal seats.

The reforms passed today include the use of indelible ink, allowing overseas Malaysians to vote and forming a royal commission to look into foreigners being given the right to vote in Sabah.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak pledged to set up the bipartisan select committee following the July 9 Bersih 2.0 rally, which saw tens of thousands pouring into the streets of Kuala Lumpur to call for free and fair elections.

The opposition has called for Bersih’s eight demands to be implemented before a general election expected early next year.

Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/maximus-targets-ec-to-be-ready-to-use-indelible-ink-in-two-months/>