

## **EC still mulling which overseas Malaysians can vote**

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**By Yow Hong Chieh**

PUTRAJAYA, Dec 19 — The Election Commission (EC) said today that it has no problem letting Malaysians residing abroad vote in elections but stressed it was still deciding who qualifies to do so.

“The EC has no objection to this but it comes down to details...,” EC chairman Tan Sri Aziz Yusof (picture) told reporters here.

“Sometimes we have Malaysians who have lived overseas for 30 years and who’ve never been back. They can’t even speak Malay (anymore). Should they be allowed to vote?”

Last month, Bersih called on Putrajaya to give Malaysians living abroad the right to vote in the upcoming general election.

Its chairman Datuk Ambiga Sreenevasan said it was the government’s “duty to enfranchise Malaysians” and not give excuses why this could not be done.

The former Bar Council president had been speaking at the launch of Global Bersih, a movement of Malaysians living abroad who demand the right to vote as overseas voters.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek had earlier spoken against overseas voting, saying it presented a “logistical nightmare” as considerable resources would have to be devoted to ensure its success.

Ambiga, however, stressed that the government must change its mindset as overseas Malaysians were ready to help in nation-building.

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