

PAS rejects EC's denial, calls for royal intervention
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By Clara Chooi

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 13 — PAS has refused to accept the Election Commission's (EC) "technical error" excuse to explain discrepancies in the electoral roll and instead today urged the Yang di-Pertuan Agong to intervene.

Party deputy president Mohamad Sabu said the King, Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin, should exercise his powers over the commission and take action against its chairman and deputy chairman for manipulating voter details, allegedly to benefit the ruling coalition.

He scoffed at EC chairman Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Mohd Yusof's explanation yesterday that the errors were due to technical glitches and outdated website information, saying the excuse was not plausible as there were too many discrepancies found in the electoral roll.

"We are talking about thousands and thousands of errors — double registration, permanent residents given voting rights in the blink of an eye... too many.

"We even have a case of a voter with the name of 'Kampung Baru' and these are not isolated errors... there are over thousands in Selangor alone," he told a press conference at the party's headquarters here.

Mohamad claimed that the countless discrepancies exposed by opposition lawmakers have caused public confidence in the integrity of the current EC leadership to reach its worst state.

This, he said, could create doubt and dissatisfaction among suspicious voters once the results are announced following the next general election.

"So we hope the Agong will take action against the (EC) chairman and his deputy who have failed to give confidence to the people that the election process is free and fair.

"If the people reject the results of the elections, then this could affect national security. So those responsible at the top must take full responsibility and make sure that the electoral roll is clean," he said.

Mohamad stressed that PAS and its partner parties in Pakatan Rakyat (PR) would not raise hue and cry should the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition retain or even gain more seats in the coming polls, but only if their victories are achieved via a fair election process.

He also slammed the EC for constantly referring to PAS and other PR lawmakers as "the opposition", reminding the commission that it should treat all parties as its customers.

"Especially the EC deputy chairman Datuk Wan Ahmad Wan Omar... He often refers to us as the opposition. As an impartial, non-partisan body responsible for handling elections in Malaysia, the EC must treat everyone, even those from the BN, as equal customers," he said.

At a press conference yesterday at the EC's Putrajaya headquarters, Abdul Aziz had denied

allegations that it has been granting voting rights and citizenships to permanent residents and blamed discrepancies exposed by opposition lawmakers on outdated information on the National Registration Department's (NRD) website.

He confirmed that the over 1,100 names revealed by opposition lawmakers recently were all legal citizens after their applications to convert their PR status were approved.

Abdul Aziz also said PAS lawmakers were cross-checking voter details using NRD's website, which is not always up to date. The EC, he explained, uses the NRD's agency link-up system (Alis) which is constantly updated.

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