

**DAP questions Putrajaya's sincerity over polls reforms**  
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**By Clara Chooi**

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 18 — Lim Guan Eng expressed doubt today over Putrajaya's sincerity in implementing electoral reforms following the Prime Minister's admission last night that he had only mooted the polls panel to "satisfy" the opposition.

The DAP secretary-general asked Datuk Seri Najib Razak if this meant that the parliamentary select committee for polls reforms, expected to be formed in October, was merely an "afterthought" to silence Bersih 2.0 and Pakatan Rakyat's (PR) demands.

To prove his sincerity, Lim (picture) urged Najib to ensure that the committee is headed by a PR leader.

"I think if you want to show sincerity, you should have the opposition lead the committee.

"After all, it is going to be a 5-3-1 formula — five Barisan Nasional (BN) representatives, three from PR and one independent. And then you have a minister leading the committee," he explained.

With such an arrangement, Lim said the committee would be more of a 7-3 formula as independent MPs generally BN-friendly.

"So if this is more of an afterthought, then it will not succeed in establishing free, fair and clean elections.

"We hope there is sincerity, if not, that means the phantom voters, illegal voters will remain and this is just an exercise of futility," he said.

Lim agreed that most parliamentary select committees formed by the BN administration would eventually become "politicised".

"What we want is a forum to address the issue... if this is a whitewash, then the election process will still lack credibility.

"But we welcome the establishment of committee... at least it is the first step," he said.

At a buka puasa function in Kapar last night, Najib said his decision to introduce electoral reforms by forming the committee was to "satisfy" the opposition despite their participation in the illegal July 9 rally.

"We will improve the (election) process if it is disputed.

"We don't dispute it but to satisfy them, then we will implement the changes to improve the system.

"We want whoever rules this country to be elected according to the true wishes of the people," he told a large crowd gathered for a buka puasa function at Pangsapuri Seri Perantau, an 11-block row of low-cost flats built by the Selangor State Development Corporation (PKNS).

The prime minister, however, continued to put down the rally, saying in the administration of any country, street demonstrations should not be permitted as they could result in riots.

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