

**Speaker should chair poll reforms panel, says Tsu Koon**  
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**By Debra Chong**

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 20 — Gerakan president Tan Sri Koh Tsu Koon waded into the debate today over who should head the parliamentary electoral reforms panel, by suggesting Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia for the role.

Koh said the Speaker would be a better man to head the bi-partisan parliamentary select committee, announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak earlier this week, than a yet-to-be-determined minister.

"It should be the Speaker, shouldn't it? He's more neutral. He's supposed to be more neutral," he told The Malaysian Insider after chairing a Gerakan leadership meeting at its headquarters.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Aziz said yesterday that a minister from the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) government will chair the panel despite rival coalition Pakatan Rakyat's (PR) insistence on helming it.

Nazri said the committee will comprise nine members — five from BN, including a minister as chairman, one from each of PR's three parties and one Independent representative.

The Umno minister said the composition was according to convention and was not a House rule.

Koh, who is national unity and integration minister, backed the 5:3:1 ratio, describing it as a fair reflection of the elected composition in the Dewan Rakyat.

Najib formed the panel some five weeks after electoral reform movement Bersih 2.0 took to the streets of the capital city to call for free and fair elections.

Police locked down the city on July 9 but an estimated 50,000 people still turned up.

A similar rally in November 2007 was partly credited for BN's poor showing in national polls held in March 2008, where the ruling coalition lost its customary two-thirds parliamentary majority and four more states.

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