

PKR says found proof of postal vote cloning
The Malaysian Insider
August 24, 2011
By Lisa J. Ariffin

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 24 — PKR today claimed to have uncovered evidence showing the cloning of postal votes in the Batu, Wangsa Maju and Setiawangsa parliamentary constituencies.

“For postal voters who have changed their addresses, we have found they are still registered as voters in their former constituency,” PKR information chief Chua Tian Chang said today.

He then demanded the Election Commission (EC) explain the discrepancies, saying the duplication raised suspicion of electoral fraud.

Tian Chua added that postal vote cloning was difficult to detect as overlaps can only be checked online.

“This means one voter can exist in two different constituencies,” he said.

According to the Batu MP, the number of newly registered postal voters has increased markedly from 2009 to 2010.

“According to Parliament on March 14, 2011, the statistics for newly-registered postal voters had suddenly increased from 313 in 2009 to 17,270 in 2010,” he said.

“Analysis have shown that these voters come from critical areas like Lumut, Pekan, Setiawangsa, Telok Kemang, Tangga Batu and Samarahan,” he added.

Later, Tian Chua said the duplication issue was compounded by the fact that postal voters were not required disclose their addresses.

“Without an address, we won’t know their physical location. Their votes can be in anywhere. So this challenges the integrity of postal votes,” he said.

“How are we going to have clean and fair elections if the voter registration list is easily manipulated?” he asked.

Touching on the special select committee for electoral reforms by the Najib administration, PKR disciplinary bureau chairman Datuk Dr Tan Kee Kwong accused the government of insincerity in setting up the panel.

“The powers of this select committee are like Parliament; they have the power to summon anybody. So this select committee would take at least one year, then to write report another two or three months them to parliament first before it can be made public,” Tan said.

“So if we follow this reasoning, it is obvious the government is not sincere. If they are, they should have set up this select committee two years ago on many accusations,” he added.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak announced the electoral reforms panel last week, 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.

The panel will comprise nine members — five from Barisan Nasional, including a minister as chairman, one from each of Pakatan Rakyat's three parties and one independent representative.

Najib has said, however, that a general election could be held anytime and would not depend on the proceedings of the panel that will be formed in October.

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