

**Allow All Malaysians To Vote, Says Gerakan
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 13 (Bernama) -- Allowing all Malaysians to vote regardless of geographic location is one of Gerakan's recommendations submitted to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Electoral Reforms.

Its deputy president Datuk Chang Ko Youn said in principle, every Malaysian inside or outside the country, must be allowed to exercise the right to vote.

"Therefore, the Election Commission (EC) and our foreign missions must set up a fair and effective mechanism to facilitate this process," he said in a statement Sunday.

Apart from that, Gerakan also recommends the EC to work together with the National Registration Department to update the electoral roll from time to time in order to ensure only living and bona fide Malaysian citizens are registered as voters.

Chang, who is also chairman of Gerakan's Law and Human Rights Bureau, said indelible ink must be used in all elections to prevent double voting.

The fourth recommendation is to give free and fair access to the media since the people must be given complete information of the governance plans and manifestos of all political parties to allow them to reach an informed decision on who and which party to support.

Chang also said the EC should be given enforcement powers to take appropriate action against election offenders.

"They (EC) should be given an enforcement unit to ensure effective management and enforcement as the current system of relying on the police and complaints from parties is insufficient," he said.

Chang said Gerakan made these recommendations to further enhance, improve and modernise the country's electoral system in the spirit of democracy.

"The time has come for our system to be further enhanced to ensure we are able to respond effectively to contemporary challenges facing our election system," he said.

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