

Upko Wants EC To Maintain 34 Per Cent Of Parliamentary Seats For Sabah, Sarawak
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PENAMPANG, Nov 29 (Bernama) -- Barisan Nasional component, United Pasokmomogun Kadazandusun Murut Organisation (Upko) wants the Election Commission (EC) to maintain the 34 per cent allocation of parliamentary seats for Sabah and Sarawak in the upcoming redelineation exercise.

In making the call, Upko secretary-general Datuk Wilfred Madius Tangau said the party wanted the EC to strictly follow the policy and spirit of the Malaysia Agreement.

He said the demand was justified as it was stated very clearly in the agreement that the EC should not only take into consideration, the population or number of voters but also the size of parliamentary constituencies in the redelineation process.

"For example, the Tuaran parliamentary constituency is bigger than Perlis and likewise, the Kinabatangan Parliamentary constituency is bigger than the state of Pahang.

"That's why, we want the Election Commission to rectify the situation in the present redelineation exercise for the good of the people and the state, and we presented the highlights of our proposal to the Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC), in a public hearing here last Friday," he told reporters here Tuesday.

Also present was Upko vice-president Datuk Maijol Mahap.

Madius said a careful analysis of the geographical sizes of the three territories showed that Peninsular Malaysia with a land size of 131,598 sq km was allocated 166 seats as opposed to Sabah and Sarawak, with a total of 198,081 sq km, being allocated with a mere 56 seats.

In this respect, he said Upko proposed that Sabah be given an additional 10 parliamentary seats, making it 35, and a corresponding 21 parliamentary seats increase for Sarawak (in addition to the present 31 seats), making it a total of 87 seats for Sabah and Sarawak.

"With 87 seats (Sabah and Sarawak) versus 166 seats for Peninsular, it will no longer be possible for members of parliament from Peninsula to amend the Federal Constitution, without the support from Sabah and Sarawak," he said.

Madius said, apart from demanding that the EC reinstate the state constituency of Langkon in Kota Marudu, the redelineation exercise must be done with a view to ensure major native communities were not left out.

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