

Nik Aziz says won't back biometric system unless foolproof
The Malaysian Insider
July 27, 2011
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Nik Aziz said his earlier "support" had been misreported. — file pic

KUALA LUMPUR, July 27 — PAS spiritual adviser Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat today denied backing the Election Commission's (EC) bid to implement a biometric voter verification system, and will continue to do so until proper safeguards are implemented.

The Kelantan menteri besar explained that he had never given his full support for the biometric system proposal, and that he supported the PAS central committee's stance to reject the system.

"The reports saying that I support it are not accurate; I just said I support whatever system that brings benefits and cannot be disputed," he said through his Facebook page.

The veteran leader added that if the biometric system should be rejected if it were questionable.

"Reject the dirty take the clean," he said.

The media had reported of Nik Aziz's support for the biometric system if it could be proven to bring "cleanliness" and not open to abuse

PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang said the party maintained its call for the EC to use indelible ink in the next general election to avoid the issue of phantom voters.

Yesterday, PAS vice president Datuk Husam Musa said as long as the EC failed to update the voter registration list as demanded, the biometric system will only open more avenues for abuse during the next general election.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak announced last Saturday that the government had agreed to allocate funds to the EC to implement a biometric system to verify the legitimacy of voters during elections.

Speaking at a function in Shah Alam yesterday, Deputy EC Chairman Datuk Wan Ahmad Wan Omar said studies on the biometric system are at their final stages, but added that the commission could not guarantee if the system will be ready in time for the next federal polls.

Bersih 2.0 Chairman Datuk Ambiga Sreenevesan said the system proposed by the EC may be acceptable if it was fully and clearly explained to the people.

She also stressed that the use indelible ink, one of the eight Bersih 2.0 demands, should be taken up until the reliability of the biometric system is proven.

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