

**Barcode Not Required On Ballot Paper - EC
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 8 (Bernama) -- A barcode is not required on the ballot paper to replace the existing serial number, said Election Commission (EC) deputy chairman Datuk Wan Ahmad Wan Omar.

He said the secrecy of the vote was guaranteed with the usage of the serial number as the ballot paper would only be issued to a voter after his or her identity had been checked.

He clarified that the usage of the serial number was to ensure that the total number of ballot papers in a ballot box would be the same with the number detached from the ballot book which had running serial numbers.

"Using serial numbers is easier because should there be a dispute, we can countercheck with the ballot book," he told Bernama.

He was responding to the proposal by Bukit Panau assemblyman Datuk Abdul Fattah Mahmood yesterday that the serial number on the ballot paper be abolished.

Wan Ahmad said the serial number method was widely used by many countries throughout the world as its was a faster and better means of knowing the total number of voter turnout.

He said political parties in Malaysia should have trust and confidence in the electoral system as it had been used since independence.

Apart from that, he said, the ballot paper was no ordinary paper but imported and printed by Percetakan Nasional Malaysia Berhad in secrecy.

"Even the colour of the paper is secret until the voting day. It is not the same colour for every election," he said.

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