

**National Fatwa Council okays indelible ink for Muslims**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
**January 11, 2012**  
**By Clara Chooi**

PUTRAJAYA, Jan 11 — The National Fatwa Council today sanctioned the use of the indelible ink by Muslims in the coming general election, saying it is permitted under Islamic laws.

Council chairman Professor Tan Sri Dr Abdul Shukor Husin made the announcement here after meeting with officials from the Election Commission (EC), Chemistry Department, Health Ministry and several state muftis, The Star Online reported.

“The findings of an analysis by the Chemistry Department were discussed during the meeting today and the ingredients in the ink will not interfere in a Muslim’s ibadah,” the daily quoted him as saying.

On December 19 last year, EC chairman Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Yusof had announced the commission’s decision to use indelible ink in the next general election to prevent multiple voting, fulfilling a key demand by the Bersih 2.0 coalition for electoral reform.

But the announcement drew the ire of leaders from Malay rights group Perkasa, who warned the Barisan Nasional (BN) administration of a possible Malay voter backlash.

In a statement a day later, Perkasa secretary-general Syed Hassan Ali claimed the Malays would even boycott the coming polls if the EC proceeds with its plan.

The group’s leader also said he, along with many other Perkasa members, would likely avoid the polls as well, adding that the push to use the ink was a ploy by those who knew its implementation would discourage the Malays from voting.

“Perkasa believes it came from those who in actual fact do not want to use the ink but because it is a way to discourage the Malays and Muslims from voting, they pushed for it. Think carefully before implementing this decision,” he had said

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