

PSC team to study European election rules
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KUALA LUMPUR (Feb 14, 2012): The Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC) on electoral reforms will send a delegation to Europe next week to study the electoral roll processes there.

Its chairman Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili said the team will study election funding, access to media and other forms of representation.

"Feedback from the team would be used in the PSC's proposal on electoral reforms," he told a press conference today.

Ongkili had earlier this month said the PSC would conduct a study trip to the United Kingdom, Germany and Denmark to learn about the election processes there including election funding and media access.

The PSC was formed on Oct 2 last year and given six months to come up with proposals.

The committee submitted 10 proposals to the Election Commission (EC) which included early voting by police and armed forces and their spouses, abolishment of objection process and withdrawal period for candidates once they have been nominated.

The regulations on the use of indelible ink in the general election will be gazetted by the EC on Feb 15.

According to press reports, the final report on the recommendations for electoral reforms is expected to be tabled in Parliament and gazetted by the first week of April.

Ongkili, who is also Science, Technology and Innovation Minister, had earlier launched a pictorial book on Sultan Terengganu Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin's visit to the Antarctic last year at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia University. Sultan Mizan was Malaysia's 13th monarch.

Ongkili said the Sultan Mizan Polar Research Fellowship Award would be established soon as a foundation to encourage young scientists to undertake research in polar science.

"The initiative, which will be funded by the government and private sector, has received Cabinet approval," he said, adding it would make it easier to manage polar research programme involving Malaysian scientists.

Earlier, in his speech, *Bernama* reported Ongkili saying Malaysia had invested in Antarctic research since 1999, making it one of the very few tropical countries that had ventured into polar research.

He said within the past 10 years, the Malaysia Antarctic Research Programme, with the support of the ministry, had organised 62 expeditions involving 60 local researchers from seven institutions of higher learning in 24 research projects, in the areas of biological and physical sciences.

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