

## **Muhyiddin: Parliamentary election panel to improve polls system**

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PUTRAJAYA: The setting up of the Parliamentary Election Committee to discuss election reforms does not mean that the election system adopted all this while is bad, but merely to improve it further, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said on Tuesday, Aug 16 the results of the previous elections, which were all carried out in a transparent manner, would not be disputed but would only be improved due to the inclination of certain groups who wanted it to be carried out.

"And this is also acknowledged by the Election Commission (EC) where they must update the electoral roll, strengthen the manner the polls are carried out, postal voting, so this is a process which is already ongoing.

"With the existence of the committee, all these will be taken into consideration and if there are any recommendations to be made, they will be presented so that the EC can take appropriate measures," he told reporters.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak yesterday announced the formation of the committee which would consist of representatives of the Barisan Nasional (BN) government and the opposition parties to discuss election reforms that need to be carried out in the 13th general election.

Najib had said that the committee to be formed in the near future was a proactive response by the BN government to tackle the dispute on free and fair elections raised by certain groups recently to the extent of creating various opinions and polemics.

Muhyiddin said the formation of the committee also reflected clearly the resoluteness of the BN government and coincided with the opinions of various groups on the need to have fair and clean elections.

"Thus, it is not a demand by the opposition only. If we want the elections to be conducted in a clean and fair manner and we want to be elected as the government based on equitable policies, with the results it means that we are adopting a transparent attitude.

"We take the views (of the people) seriously. So, certainly the members of parliament elected from the government and opposition who are said to be meeting very soon, they will look at certain aspects in terms of the current system and how they can be further improved," he said.

Muhyiddin said the measures would involve consultation with the various groups including the EC and through consensus, the election system could certainly be strengthened further. - Bernama

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