

**Polls panel wants EC to clean up voter roll**  
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**By Clara Chooi**

KUALA LUMPUR, April 3 — The Election Commission (EC) must prioritise efforts to ensure the electoral roll is clean and free from manipulation, Parliament's polls reform panel has recommended.

The panel, in its final report tabled to the Dewan Rakyat this morning, also suggested the formation of a Parliamentary Select Committee to continuously monitor and oversee all efforts in cleaning up and revising the voter registry.

File photo of voters waiting to cast their ballots in the Sarawak state election last year. The PSC wants the Election Commission to clean up the electoral roll. — Picture by Choo Choy May

The recommendations come on the heels of repeated allegations by opposition lawmakers and civil society groups like Bersih 2.0 of manipulation in the current electoral roll, including the existence of duplicate voters and a suspicious surge of new voters in numerous constituencies.

"The committee recommends that the EC, with co-operation from the National Registration Department (NRD), gives top priority to continuous efforts to clean the electoral roll to ensure that the roll used in any election is valid," the panel said in its report today.

The panel also revealed that until March 20 this year, a total of 483 police personnel and 653 army personnel in the EC's registry have yet to apply for MyKads or MyTentera cards.

"The committee recommends that the Royal Malaysian Police and Malaysian Armed Forces monitor and take necessary action regarding this matter within 60 days from the date this report is tabled in Parliament," the panel ordered.

It also recommended that a certified and independent agency like government technology adviser Mimos Berhad be commissioned to assist the EC in checking and updating the voter roll.

The panel also revealed that verifications from Mimos had recently uncovered a total of 324 addresses where more than 100 individuals are registered as voters and 938 addresses with between 51 and 100 registered voters.

The panel said that the contributing factors to these discrepancies include incomplete addresses; overly-general addresses using the words "kampung" (village), "rumah pangsang" (flats), "rumah panjang" (longhouse) and "jalan" (street or road) without including house numbers; shared addresses (birth addresses or rented premises); and "borrowed" registered addresses, which are addresses used by an individual to enable them to register in a specific constituency.

As such, the panel directed the EC to display for a 45-day period the list of voters where

more than 50 are registered to one address.

"This is so they (the voters) can come forward and allow the EC to update and clean the voter registry. The results of this check must be reported to the Parliamentary Select Committee that was suggested for formation," said the panel.

In another recommendation, the panel asked for amendments to legal provisions to allow the EC to slash names from the registry, upon receiving proof that an individual is not a valid voter.

The PSC report is currently being debated by federal lawmakers in Parliament.

The bipartisan nine-member polls reform panel was mooted by Datuk Seri Najib Razak last year, months after his administration earned widespread criticisms for its handling of Bersih's rally for free and fair elections on July 9.

After 13 meetings, six public hearings and one fact-finding mission to several foreign countries, the panel finally released its 22-point report to parliamentarians yesterday. Of the 22 recommendations, however, the panel members had disagreed on four points.

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