

**PKR says 5,000 'dubious' Lembah Pantai voters unverifiable, not squatters**  
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**By Emily Ding**

KUALA LUMPUR, April 24 — PKR's campaign criticised today the Election Commission (EC) for not providing complete addresses for the alleged 5,000 "dubious" voters in the federal constituency of Lembah Pantai, but said it was clear from available information that most of these registered voters are not squatters who had moved to government housing, as claimed by Federal Territories and Urban Wellbeing Minister Datuk Raja Nong Chik Zainal Abidin.

Fahmi Fadzil, who is incumbent MP Nurul Izzah Anwar's political secretary, showed reporters a list of the 5,000 voters PKR had obtained from the Election Commission (EC) and pointed out streets and apartment names that were not squatter areas, such as Jalan Bangsar and Apartment Putra Ria opposite the Mid Valley shopping mall.

"The efforts of Umno members in Lembah Pantai accusing Nurul Izzah of trying to strike voters off the electoral roll because they live in squatter areas is not true," he said at PKR's Lembah Pantai operations centre today.

"There are a lot of streets and places in Bangsar, for example. It is impossible that these places are squatter areas."

Lawyer Edmund Bon, who was also present at the news conference, said that the EC must have a voter's complete address to register him or her on the electoral roll.

"How can Umno be certain that these voters are squatters? In four years, we have tried to meet the voters but the addresses are incomplete," Fahmi said.

"We ask Umno in the spirit of democracy to please share their tactic, how can they find out where these voters are staying? Or is it that the EC gives them a different list to what they have given us?"

Nurul Izzah, who will be defending her Lembah Pantai seat against Raja Nong Chik and an independent candidate in a three-cornered fight, recently lost her court bid to compel the Election Commission (EC) to clean up the Lembah Pantai electoral roll that contains 72,533 names.

Bon said Nurul Izzah would appeal the court's decision this week or next week, despite the fact that a favourable outcome would no longer have an impact on the May 5 general elections.

"We have taken the position under the law that once elections are called, the EC cannot amend the electoral roll anymore... We accept that. I think that's a logical and practical position to take," he said.

"However, that bar from amending the election register ends once the new government comes into place... If we succeed in this suit, then the EC would have to comply with the court order after the general elections to either verify these voters, remove them or give reasons why they should continue to be on the list."

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