

Election Commission Proves To Media Indelible Ink Lasts
Bernama
2 May, 2013

PUTRAJAYA, May 2 (Bernama) -- In a special demonstration here, the Election Commission (EC) today proved to media representatives that indelible ink smeared on the finger of voters could not be removed.

It was aimed at refuting allegations from certain parties that the indelible ink, used in the 13th General Election, could be removed by rubbing or washing with water.

EC secretary Datuk Kamaruddin Mohamed Baria and EC officers conducted the demonstration with a media representative, while witnessed by their colleagues.

In the demonstration, it was clear that attempts by the media representative to remove the ink smeared on the index finger, ended in failure despite the use of various detergents.

The ink used in the demonstration was the one which was used by the EC for early voting, Kamaruddin told a media conference at the EC Media Centre here.

Yesterday, the EC clarified that indelible ink smeared on the fingers of early voters was removed as the EC personnel involved did not shake the ink bottle before using it.

At the event, Kamaruddin also handed over a list of regulations which needed to be complied with by EC personnel at the polling stations on polling day this Sunday.

Among them, the ink bottle must be shaken every two hours for 30 seconds, the voter's finger must be clean and dry, and the indelible ink needs to be smeared on the entire top portion of the finger - from the finger nail to the reverse side of the finger.

Kamaruddin reassured that the indelible ink smeared on the finger of voters would last for between five and seven days.

He said the use of the ink for the first time in the history of the Malaysian general election, followed a request from certain groups. The ink was tested and approved by the health ministry and chemistry department, and was declared halal by the National Fatwa Council.

Kamaruddin said attempts by certain groups to completely remove the ink smudge from the finger of early voters by using various methods, might be linked to specific motives against the EC. In the case of the early voter who lodged a police report and disseminated the effects of ink being removed from the finger, he said it was because the EC personnel did not follow the instruction stated on the ink bottle, which needed to be shaken for 30 seconds before usage.

According to him, if the procedures stated on the bottle were adhered to, the ink could not be removed despite using vinegar, detergent, petrol or any other solutions.

"...if seen carefully on the case found on social website, the ink was not completely removed as there were stains on the side of the finger nail," he said.

On early voting on Tuesday, he said 83.3 per cent or 200,979 out of 272,387 early voters, cast their votes.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2013 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v7/newsindex.php?id=946982>