

RCI: Bumburing suggests a red and blue card solution
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Immigrants under investigation should be issued temporary identity cards until the probe has been completed, said former Tuaran MP Datuk Seri Wilfred Mojilip Bumburing.

He told the Royal Commission of Inquiry investigating illegal immigrants in Sabah that immigrants holding blue identity cards should have it rescinded if they were being probed.

"Once investigations have been wrapped up, only those who can be genuinely trusted as citizens here should be issued permanent identity cards. This will resolve the problem of immigrants being systematically granted citizenship here."

Bumburing, who stood in May's general election under the PKR banner, told the RCI, headed by former Sabah and Sarawak Chief Judge Steve Shim, that the government had to be prepared to allocate funds for this purpose.

He also claimed that with the alarming increase in Sabah's population, this would change the landscape of the Borneo state, and also directly affect the result of the polls.

"Take the Likas constituency for example, it used to be an area with a Chinese majority. But now that is no longer the case and everyone is aware that immigrants can directly affect the election results."

"Look at Batu Sapi, it is clear that foreign immigrants outnumber local voters. Of the 48 parliamentary seats in Sabah, there are just 18 non-Muslim majority seats compared with 20 previously.

"But the Muslim majority areas have increased to 24 from 20 and the remaining six seats are Chinese majority areas. The government is aware that the RCI will resolve this problem as many have been issued unofficial identity cards.

"I feel that foreign immigrants should be given temporary identity cards until the probe has been completed. This is not a question of chasing them out of Sabah as they have families and alternatives should be given.

"This is an issue of integrity, we must reset everything to return to 'Ground Zero'," said Bumburing, who also suggested those who had lost their identity cards in the process to use

their birth certificates to reapply.

"If we do not do this, how will we solve the issue of suspicious identity cards being granted. If they are really citizens, what is there to be scared of?" Bumburing said, who is the first witness in a line of politicians called to testify at the RCI.

He added that 10 per cent of foreign immigrants who received identity cards had not even applied but still got it. He claimed that 90 per cent of them had bought the identity cards.

The RCI had been told previously that Sabah had issued 12 times more identity cards compared with Sarawak, with 66,000 illegal immigrants in the Borneo state having received blue identity cards since 1963.

In Sarawak, only 5,373 illegals in Sarawak had been issued blue identity cards between 1963 and 2012. It is estimated that 28 per cent of Sabah's 3.2 population or 889,000 are foreigners.- June 19, 2013..

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