

**Put opposition MP as Parliament Speaker, say Pakatan MPs
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By Yiswaree Palansamy and Jennifer Gomez

A mature democracy requires an opposition lawmaker as the Parliament Speaker, DAP MPs Karpal Singh and son Gobind Singh said today when expressing dissatisfaction over the election of the new Speaker.

Both were unhappy over the procedures for electing the Speaker, after Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia kept the post having been voted in by all 133 MPs of the ruling Barisan Nasional.

Pakatan Rakyat had nominated former Federal Court judge Datuk Abdul Kadir Sulaiman, who received all 89 votes from the opposition pact.

"According to the standing order, there is no need for names of voters to be written on the ballot, but despite being clearly stipulated, that was not what was practised today," said Gobind who declined to write his name in the voting slip.

"However, congratulations to him (Pandikar Amin)...we have another five years for change," he added.

Karpal also called for amendments to Standing Order 4 (4) which reads that "For the purpose of a ballot, the secretary shall give each member present a ballot paper on which the member may write the name of the member or person for whom he wishes to vote. Ballot papers shall be folded so that the name written thereon shall not be seen, and shall be signed by the member voting."

"Why is such ruling there if it is not observed?," Karpal questioned.

Batu MP Tian Chua also expressed his disappointment over the manner the ballot was carried out.

"By refusing to conduct secret voting, the PM has showed he distrusts his own MPs," he said. - June 24, 2013.

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