

EC Should Accept Judicial Challenges On Names Gazetted In Electoral Roll, RCI Told
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KOTA KINABALU, July 23 (Bernama) -- The Election Commission (EC) should be allowed to accept judicial challenges on names gazetted in the electoral roll, said Serdang Member of Parliament Dr Ong Kian Ming today.

For that purpose, the former lecturer in economics and political science recommended that Section 9(a) of the Election Act, which prevents judicial scrutiny, be abolished.

"So far, the EC has not shown that it has the sincerity and political will to make the necessary change to ensure a clean electoral roll.

"Whenever there is a problem, they always point to the National Registration Department (NRD). This has to be changed," he told the Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCI) on Illegal Immigrants in Sabah.

Ong, who conducted a study on the number of cases of problematic identity cards (IC) in Sabah's electoral roll, said Sabah had the highest number of dubious voters in the country.

He said there was a need to overhaul the whole system of registering voters and called on the EC to work with the NRD to clean the electoral roll by identifying and verifying problematic ICs.

Deputy secretary of the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry's policy division Dr Chua Choon Hwa said Sabah had the highest number of 'street kids' in the country, and the majority of them had parents or families whom they still lived with.

According to a study by University Malaysia Sabah (UMS), he said about 89 per cent of the respondents said they still had parents who were both still married and lived together.

Earlier, a member of the Sabah Law Association, Datuk Roderic Fernandez, appeared before the RCI to refute allegations by former senator and state assemblyman Dr Chong Eng Leong, when testifying before the RCI last week, linking Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman's involvement in the so-called Project IC.

"I would like to note that my client (Musa) has denied every allegation," said Fernandez, a former Sabah attorney-general.

His request for the notes of the proceeding in which Chong made the allegation, was granted by RCI chairman Tan Sri Steve Shim Lip Kiong.

The inquiry continues tomorrow.

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