

**Bersih's Ambiga jabs, EC ducks, won't promise to clean up electoral rolls**  
**Malaysian Insider**  
**Aug 25 , 2013**  
**BY LEE SHI-IAN**

The Election Commission refused to promise to clean up the electoral rolls before beginning the delineation exercise, despite being asked several times by Bersih's co-chair Datuk S. Ambiga during a forum today.

EC deputy chairman Datuk Wan Ahmad Wan Omar deflected Ambiga's questions or kept quiet during the 7th Annual Malaysian Student Leaders Summit held at the Intercontinental Hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

Wan Ahmad, Ambiga and Lembah Pantai MP Nurul Izzah Anwar were discussing if the first-past-the-post electoral process was past its prime in Malaysia.

However, Wan Ahmad updated the forum on what the EC had been doing about cleaning the rolls.

"We will give priority to cleaning up the electoral rolls before the EC begins the redelineation process," Wan Ahmad said, adding that the EC had heard the complaints and grouses of the public, especially claims that there were 10 names registered at a single address.

Wan Ahmad revealed that a workshop had been organised in Shah Alam to thrash out all the issues plaguing the commission related to the electoral rolls and to submit recommendations.

"If the recommendations are too many, we may consider alternative actions including proposing new registration laws in Parliament before the next general election," he said.

Earlier this month, Ambiga had said the electoral watchdog will launch Bersih 4.0 if the commission proceeds with its delineation of parliamentary and state constituency boundaries before cleaning up the electoral rolls.

Since the Royal Commission of Inquiry on illegal immigrants in Sabah began early this year, numerous witnesses have testified on Project IC, where illegal immigrants were allegedly issued identity cards indiscriminately to boost the Barisan Nasional vote bank in the state.

Witnesses such as former Sandakan district officer Hassnar Ebrahim, former senator Dr Chong Eng Leong and Serdang MP Dr Ong Kian Ming have told the RCI about immigrants being registered on the electoral rolls after they received their identity cards.

Ambiga asked Wan Ahmad at least five times for a promise that the EC would clean up the rolls before carrying out the delineation process.

She said it was completely unacceptable for the delineation exercise to be carried out based on the 2013 electoral rolls as it was flawed.

She asked the audience whether they had been reading reports of the RCI on illegal immigrants in Sabah.

"With all the reports from the RCI sessions in Sabah, it is clear that the electoral rolls are

flawed and definitely need to be cleaned up. If the delineation exercise is carried out, we will be stuck for eight years, or two general elections," Ambiga said.

She asked Wan Ahmad for guarantees that no delineation exercise would be conducted until the electoral rolls had been cleaned up but was met with silence or vague answers.

Ambiga also said that changing the electoral process was pointless because it was not just the system which was flawed but the root structure itself was rotten. -August 25, 2013.

Hakcipta © 2013 The Malaysian Insider

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/bersihs-ambiga-asks-5-times-but-ec-wont-promise-to-clean-up-electoral-rolls>