

DAP questions anti-graft commission on RM1 million "living expenses" during GE13

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BY YISWAREE PALANSAMY

The DAP wants to know how officers from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) spent RM1 million on "living expenses" during the general election.

Kulai Member of Parliament Teo Nie Ching said that the MACC should provide a breakdown on its officers' expenditure.

She added that since so much was spent, the taxpaying public has the right to know what the officers had observed during the May elections.

"Did they spot any breach of the Election Offences Act?" Teo questioned.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Razali Ibrahim told Parliament that RM1 million was spent on living expenses.

Razali said MACC had received 82 complaints, out of which only seven were being investigated.

"It is shocking that after spending RM1 million on living expenses of its officers during GE13, MACC only noticed seven potential breaches of the Election Offences Act," Teo said.

She drew attention to the findings by Pemantau.

The group, comprising election watchdogs Bersih and Malaysians for Free and Fair Elections as well as human rights group Pusat Komus, noticed a lot more than seven election irregularities.

Teo said that with only 2,000 election observers, Pemantau only managed to observe 23 parliamentary seats on nomination day, 51 seats during the campaigning period and 87 seats on polling day.

"However, the observers noted alleged incidences of bribery involving more money or other goods in five constituencies observed on nomination day," she added.

According to Teo, Pemantau had also reported bribery involving valuable consideration and other goods in almost half of all the constituencies, while money was allegedly given out in 19 constituencies.

"Pemantau had very limited resources and was not able to cover the whole country throughout the campaign period.

"However, the people of Malaysia would expect MACC with a RM1 million allocation for its officers living expenses and many other resources at its disposal to discover more occurrences of election irregularities compared to Pemantau," Teoh said. - September 28, 2013.

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