

## **GE report: BN gives Bersih cold shoulder**

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**Oleh P Ramani**

KUALA LUMPUR: Bersih today submitted its People's Tribunal Report on the 13th General Election to members of parliament but only opposition lawmakers were in the parliament lobby to receive their copies.

Bersih chief Maria Chin Abdullah indicated she was disappointed by the absence of Barisan Nasional members, saying all MPs had been notified earlier about the submission and a briefing that would follow.

Among the MPs who received the report were Kapar's G Manivannan, Klang's Charles Santiago, Kuala Krai's Hatta Ramli, Serdang's Ong Kiang Ming and Kota Raja's Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud.

According to the report, last May's general election was neither free nor fair, underscoring the need for reform.

Speaking to reporters, Chin and several of the MPs denounced Minister in Prime Minister's Department Shahidan Kassim for his recent statement that he would support the one-man-one-vote system on condition that every voter is compelled to vote only for a candidate of his own racial background.

Chin said it was "shameful" for someone holding a minister's post to make such a "ridiculous" statement.

Manivannan said BN must stop playing the race card.

Santiago spoke about his failure last year to get a court order compelling the Election Commission to clean up the electoral roll for his constituency.

In dismissing his application, Shah Alam High Court judge Vernon Ong said such an order would contravene Section 9 (a) of the Elections Act, which reads: "After an electoral roll has been certified or re-certified, as the case may be, and notice of the certification or re-certification has been published in the Gazette as prescribed by regulations made under this Act, the electoral roll shall be deemed to be final and binding and shall not be questioned or appealed against, or reviewed, quashed or set aside by any court."

Santiago said Section 9 (a) was unconstitutional and called on the government to table a bill to remove it from the Elections Act.

Lembah Pantai MP Nurul Izzah Anwar's bid to clean up the electoral roll in her constituency was similarly dismissed.

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