

Stop being unprofessional, meet us, opposition tells EC chief

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Pakatan Harapan wants to discuss electoral issues such as the shortage of voter registration forms at post offices and access to draft supplementary electoral rolls.

PETALING JAYA: Pakatan Harapan (PH) today said it wants to have a meeting with Election Commission (EC) chairman Mohd Hashim Abdullah to discuss electoral issues affecting the people.

PH representative R Sivarasa said it was unprofessional of the EC to refuse to meet with political parties, whom he said were like the commission's clients.

"The democratic election process in this country does not reflect freedom and justice.

"The EC is not supposed to take sides just to ensure an electoral win for Barisan Nasional (BN)," Sivarasa said in a press conference at the PKR headquarters here today.

Bayan Lepas MP Sim Tze Tzin said the meeting would also address the shortage of voter registration forms at post offices.

"The voter registration forms are like a rare commodity nowadays. Even the post offices are facing scarcity of the forms," Sim said.

The opposition coalition also intends to question the spike in new voters in the fourth quarter of last year and the first quarter of this year.

"The new voters registration was eight times higher than normal. It had been steady at around 70,000 per quarter since 2013.

"This raises many questions, and we intend to get clarification from the EC," Shah Alam MP Khalid Samad said.

PPBM vice-president Abdul Rashid Abdul Rahman added that the public had the right to sufficient information before casting their votes.

"This is a democratic electoral process. Let it be open so the rakyat can make their own choices," he said.

Rashid, who is a former EC chairman, said public confidence must be maintained and that the electoral process must be straightforward, truthful and fair.

He added that according to the rules and regulations governing the electoral process, political parties are allowed to purchase the draft supplementary electoral rolls.

“Just sell it. If political parties have the funds, they will purchase it. This is a form of freedom for political parties to make their own verification. It is their responsibility and it should be respected,” Rashid said.

Recently, EC secretary Abdul Ghani Salleh confirmed that the EC would no longer provide copies of draft supplementary electoral rolls.

The move was criticised by political parties who said this would allow malicious acts to be committed during elections.

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