

Punish those who undermine democracy, Ambiga tells voters

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By Sheith Khidhir Bin Abu Bakar

The former Bersih co-chairperson says the Election Commission no longer cares whether it is seen to be working for BN or not.

KUALA LUMPUR: Civil rights activist Ambiga Sreenevasan has accused the Election Commission (EC) of no longer caring if the public knows it is working in favour of the ruling party or not.

“I’ve never seen the EC so blatant. They have passed caring about whether they are obviously working for Barisan Nasional (BN) or not,” she said, calling on those who undermined the democratic process to be punished through the ballot box.

The former co-chairperson of electoral watchdog Bersih said she was worried as the EC’s bluntness indicated that a lot of cheating would take place in the upcoming 14th general election (GE14), even when compared to previous elections.

“I always say that the cheating started the day after GE13 (in May 2013). That’s the agenda – to make it difficult for the voters. And you can bet your bottom dollar that GE14 will be the dirtiest election yet,” she said.

Ambiga, who is National Human Rights Society (Hakam) president, was speaking at a forum entitled “Emerging Issues in Malaysia for the Coming GE14” at the Wesley Legacy Centre here today.

She cited the EC’s recent constituency redelineation exercise and allegations by objecting voters as some of the examples to justify her claims.

The EC has maintained the 222 parliamentary seats for the next general election (GE14), and also kept the number of seats in all state legislative assemblies in the peninsula.

However, it has redrawn electoral boundaries, prompting criticism from civil society and political parties, especially those in the opposition.

Bersih 2.0 had last month accused the EC of making the electoral roll worse by refusing to give either hard or soft copies of the draft supplementary roll for the first quarter of this year.

It criticised the move as being no less than an act of sabotage.

Ambiga urged voters to “punish” those who undermine parliamentary democracy.

“All those who have taken an oath of office have to answer to the people. If they’re not doing their jobs then we must punish them,” she said.

“We must show those who undermine parliamentary democracy the door.”

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