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PSC on electoral reform

The eight demands from BERSIH 2 to reform the electoral system of the country must and should be entertained by the government. BERSIH which is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) should be seen as independent apolitical body and therefore her request and recommendations for electoral reform must be viewed seriously. We fully support the eight demands.

The eight demands are:

1. Clean the electoral roll
2. Reform postal ballot
3. Use of indelible ink
4. Minimum 21 days campaign period
5. Free and fair access to media
6. Strengthen public institutions
7. Stop corruption
8. Stop dirty politics

Sabah is a unique situation whereby the State experiences a surge in population growth which can only be adduced to the exercise of legalising illegal immigrants and entering them into the electoral roll. The court case leading to the Likas by-election, the book "Projek IC" by M D Mutalib and the book "Lest we forget" by Dr Chong Eng Leong and a paper written by former ISA detainee Jabar Khan Napi are evidences to show that this exercise existed. It is an open secret. We support Dr Chong Eng Leong who gave a lengthy presentation on this subject matter before the PSC this morning.

In view of this, the electoral reform in Sabah must include proper verification of the Mycards on Election Day. The Mycards must be scanned and verified with the National Registration Department. An online verification must be in place. This verification is at the request of the voting clerks of the political parties and this is done if anyone of them has doubt over the person who is about to collect his ballot paper.

The use of indelible ink has been used in India, Afghanistan and Iraq just to name a few. In the war-torn countries like Afghanistan and Iraq, the use of indelible ink provides the confidence of the people towards the election. Likewise in Sabah, it will give credence and confidence of the people to the Election process if the ink is used. The use of the ink will detect any person who votes more than once.

It is undeniable that many Sabahans are away from their homes. DAP Sabah wants the committee to take these people into consideration and find ways and means to allow them to

vote. It is also applicable to Malaysians from other States residing in Sabah to do likewise. Polling booths should be made available for them to cast their votes.

After the Likas by-election the government made a drastic ruling in not allowing any parties to challenge the Court decision on the electoral roll once it is gazetted. DAP Sabah wants this ruling review and rectified to give legal opportunity for any parties for remedy.

DAP Sabah