



SUMMARY

of The EC's Clarifications On
The Issues of The Electoral Roll And
The Improvement of Electoral Process

Election Commission Of Malaysia

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ISSUE 1

More than three million non-residents found in the EC's Electoral Roll

The EC does not deny the fact that there are many electors in the Main Electoral Roll who are no longer residing in the place where they originally registered. In fact, there are many such electors in the EC's electoral roll. Though they may have moved to a different place, they failed to submit application to the EC for change of address in the electoral roll.

This scenario has motivated some parties to classify these electors as 'non resident votes'. In fact, some other parties are more prone to label these voters as 'phantom voters' just because these voters suddenly turn up on the polling day to cast their vote at the polling centre in the area where they originally registered as an elector.

In this context, the EC would like to stress that it has no direct authority to compel the electors who have moved to their new places of residence to apply for change of address and there by polling centres. What the EC can do is to advice electors who have moved to their new places of residence to change their address with the National Registration Department and apply for change of address and polling centre to the EC.

ISSUE 2

There are too many voters in the EC's electoral roll who were born overseas (having code 71 in their MyKad)

Based on the information from the National Registration Department, 'state code 71' is for individuals who are born overseas. These individuals could be Malaysian citizens or non-citizens who later become Malaysian citizens. However, from early 2000, the National

Registration Department has designated different codes for different countries and no longer uses 'state code 71' for all individuals born overseas. Some of the code share, for example, code 61 for Indonesia, 66 (Singapore), 76 (Pakistan), 79 (Bangladesh), 87 (Thailand) and 89 (South Korea).

As of Quarter 2, 2012, the total number of electors in the Electoral Roll with 'state code 71' in their identity card was 172,157 throughout the country. Of this total, Selangor recorded the highest number with 33,132 electors, followed by Johor with 28,105 electors, Kuala Lumpur (17,616), Kelantan (15,869), Perak (15,577) and Penang (12,321).

For the EC, anyone who is confirmed as a citizen of Malaysia, although they were given identity cards which recorded certain codes by the National Registration Department, are eligible and entitled to apply to be registered as voters, and thus be voters in any election in this country.

ISSUE 3

The EC ignores the issue of granting MyKad to foreigners

There is a tendency amongst certain parties that accuse the EC of ignoring the issues of providing MyKad to foreigners, who then allegedly tried to be registered as voters. In relation to this issue, the EC would like to stress that its function is clear as specified under Article 113 of the Federal Constitution, that is, to manage all matters related the conduct and management of elections only.

Matters relating to citizen ship and identity cards are under the purview of another agency, which is the National Registration Department, and not the EC. Therefore, the issue that the EC takes a hands-off approach over the granting of MyKad to foreigners does not arise because it is not under the jurisdiction of the EC.

The EC, based on the laws and regulations under which it operates, registers as an elector who ever meets the eligibility requirements for registration as a voter. These include the condition that the person must be a Malaysian citizen. The EC processes each application for registration according to the provisions laid out in the law under which it operates. The process among others include checking the identity of the applicants based on their identity card numbers with the National Registration Department; displaying the names of the applicants for claims and objections; undertaking investigations and conducting public hearings for cases involving objections and claims; and publishing the names of electors who fulfill the eligibility requirements to be registered as electors.

ISSUE 4

The EC's electoral roll still has electors with incomplete addresses even though they are residing in developed states such as Selangor and Kuala Lumpur

It is the objective of the EC to have an Electoral Roll with complete current addresses for all the 13 million registered electors in the country. Unfortunately, the situation at the ground level does not allow the EC to do so.

It is a known fact that despite the rapid development and urbanization in several states such as in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur, there remain areas that have not fully benefitted from the process of urbanization. These includes squatters area and areas leased for temporary occupation. In these areas, each house is not given a unique number. They merely use the names of the roads. In fact, in these areas the use of surrogate address is quite common. The nearby residents or residents living in an area often use the address of premises such as a coffee shop for the purpose of correspondence.

In addition to this, a study by the EC showed that applicants completing the application forms for registration as well as relatives and others who helped to complete the application forms did not give the complete address of the applicants, especially applications for registration prior to July 2002. At that time, the EC too did not see the need for a complete address as a priority when processing applications for registration since the format of the addresses then were in different forms, there were those that were complete and others that were too general.

The EC would attempt to identify and complete the information that they have of new electors, including their addresses, in the Main Electoral Roll. In this regard, the EC has stepped up its efforts to get the complete addresses of electors by conducting checks on the ground in the affected areas as well as create a special facility on its website that provide the opportunity for electors to update the information on their respective addresses.

ISSUE 5

The EC's electoral roll contains information on gender that is inconsistent with that in their respective identity cards

It cannot be denied that there is a general perception that a male will have an odd number as his last digit in his 12-digit MyKad number. Similarly, for female MyKad holder, the general perception is that the last digit in the 12-digit number would be an even number. In reality, this is not the case. A male can have an even number as his last digit and a female can have an odd number as his last digit.

The National Registration Department has informed the EC that when issuing 12-digit identity card numbers, it is not necessary to issue numbers that end with an odd number for males and even number for females. In other words, it is normal for a male to have an even number

as the last digit of his 12-digit number in his MyKad. Similarly, a female can have an odd number as the last digit of his 12-digit identity number in her MyKad.

The EC registers an elector based solely on his identity card number and the address stated in the identity card, which must be the same as in that in the system of the National Registration System (ALiS). As long as the identity card presented to the EC is valid, that is, it was issued by the National Registration Department, the registration system at the EC will accept it and use the information contained in the identity card as valid information to ascertain the address of the elector.

ISSUE 6

There are voters with similar names, and sometimes the same date of birth in the Electoral Roll

With 13 million electors in the electoral roll, it is normal to have electors with similar names and even the same date of birth in this country, especially among the Malays and the Muslims.

A quick search of the electoral roll by the EC showed that several electors had the same name. For example, there were 15 electors with exactly the same name, Abdul Aziz bin Mohd Yusof. The same applies to Wan Ahmad bin Wan Omar. There were 10 electors with exactly the same name. There was absolutely no difference even in the spelling of these names. The EC found the claims that there were electors with very similar names with the same dates of birth to be true. However, further checks by the EC showed that there were different individuals and were not 'clones' or 'duplicates' as claimed by some parties.

ISSUE 7

The EC's Electoral Roll has electors with 'weird' names

There are several parties that claimed that the EC's Electoral Roll contains many strange names and are some what dubious. Some of the names are associated with the names of plants, animals, food and names of places.

In this regard, the EC would like to clarify that the decision to accept an application for registration as an elector is not based on one's name, race, religion, custom etc. Instead, it is based solely on an applicant fulfilling the eligibility conditions laid down under Article 119 (1) of the Federal Constitution. In this context, the EC is of the view that every Malaysian citizen must respect the uniqueness of the culture of every community in the country, including the giving of names even if the names given are seen as 'weird' by certain parties.

In the EC's latest Principal Electoral Roll, there are names like Siti Hairan binti Jauharati (registered in the Kg. Ladang Segaria locality), Kereta binti Laut (registered in the Kg. Samuran locality), Kucing anak Tedong (registered in the Lutong Secondary School locality), Batman bin Bakke (registered in the Rh Nyuak locality) and Proton Saga s/o Kelambu (registered in the Sg Jentong locality).

These names may appear weird to some people but that does not prevent the EC from accepting and registering them as registered electors since they fulfilled all the eligibility requirements to be registered as an elector as established by the EC.

ISSUE 8

The Electoral Roll has numerous voters aged 85 years and above, even those who are more than 100 years of age

According to EC's records, there are still many electors in the electoral roll who are 85 years and above. These electors are eligible to vote during the elections including the upcoming 13th general election.

Old age is not a criterion that can be used indiscriminately by the EC to delete names of electors from the Main Electoral Roll. Any action to delete the name of a registered elector from the electoral roll can only be done upon specific reasons such as when an elector has passed away subject to verification by the National Registration Department or when the citizenship of the elector has been withdrawn by the Government of Malaysia.

Therefore, although the age of an elector may be over 100 years, the existing laws do not allow the EC to delete his name arbitrarily from the electoral roll on the assumption that he may have died. Therefore, if anyone knows and can prove that one or more relatives are dead, the EC hopes that he would proceed to the National Registration Department to update the records of the deceased.

ISSUE 9

The EC's Electoral Roll is doubtful since there are senior citizens who have just registered themselves as electors

According to Article 119 (1) of the Federal Constitution, a person is eligible for registration as an elector when he reaches the age of 21. Hence, as long as one is a Malaysian citizen, over the age of 21 and fulfills all the requirements to be an elector, the EC cannot prevent the person from applying for registration as an elector even though the applicant may be a senior citizen, for example is more than 90 years

old. The same applies to the cleaning-up of the electoral roll. The EC cannot arbitrarily delete the names of electors who are very old, for example, those who are 90 years and above unless the EC is informed by the National Registration Department that an elector has lost his eligibility either due to death or had his citizenship revoked.

For the purpose of record, the EC would like to inform that during the preparation of the Draft Supplementary Electoral Roll for the Fourth Quarter (October-December) of 2012, there were 42 applicants who were 90 years old and above had submitted their applications for registration as electors for the first time in their life. This clearly demonstrates that old age is not a barrier for anyone to apply to register as an elector as long as one meets the eligibility requirements to register as an elector.

In addition to this, the EC conducted some investigations at random on electors who were 90 years and above and found that some were still alive and were therefore eligible to be in the electoral roll.

ISSUE 10

The Electoral Roll has many new electors from the army and the police who are over the age of eligibility for intake into the Armed and Police Forces i.e., 28 years

It is true that there are new electors in the electoral roll from the Armed and Police Forces who are over the age of 28 years though the maximum age for intake into these Forces is 28 years. This is because the Armed Forces did recruit its personnel through what is referred to as absorption from among members of the Border Regiment, commonly referred to as the Territorial Army (Askar Wataniah). When these individuals were absorbed into the Armed Forces, they were already above the eligibility age.

As for the Police Force, there were new electors in the roll who were above the eligibility age of 28 years for recruitment into the Force as the Royal Malaysian Police Force had recruited from among former soldiers who had completed their short-term services with the Army. The average age of these former soldiers when they applied to join the Police Force was above 30 years.

In addition to the above reasons, there are also members of the Royal Malaysian Police Force who are late registrants as they apply for registration as an elector much later after joining the Police Force.

It is because of the above circumstances that we have some new electors whose age may have exceeded the eligibility age of 28 years for recruitment into the Armed and Police Forces.

ISSUE 11

The Electoral Roll still has many electors from amongst members of the Armed and Police Forces who have already passed the retirement age

The election laws clearly stipulate that any change to the status of an elector in the electoral roll must be initiated by the elector himself. The EC cannot on its own effect any changes indiscriminately to the information about an elector without a formal application from the elector concerned.

In this respect, if there are members of the Armed and the Police Forces who have completed their services but failed to apply to request change in their status from absent voters to ordinary voters, their status will remain unchanged in the Electoral Roll even though they may have retired from the service.

A retired member of the Armed Forces or the Police Force, who did not apply to change the status of his registration from an absent voter to an ordinary voter, will not be able to vote as an ordinary voter as his name will still appear under the list of absent voters

Currently, concerted effort is being undertaken by the Armed Forces and the Royal Malaysian Police Force to ensure that each of their members who retire immediately submit their application for change of status, from an absent voter to an ordinary voter. In this respect, the EC has been made to understand that the Remuneration Division of both the Forces have begun to include Form A (Application for Registration) along with other documents to their members who are about to retire to enable them to apply for change of status, from an absent voter to an ordinary voter. With this procedure in place, the EC hopes to reduce the problem of having members of the Armed Forces and the Police Force who have long retired still in the list of absent voters.

ISSUE 12

The EC's Electoral Roll has too many postal voters from amongst the wives of the armed forces and the police personnel

As provided for under the Election Regulations (Postal Voting) 2003, the wife or husband of the armed forces personnel is entitled to vote by post. According to the Election Regulations (Postal Voting) 2003, members of the Police Force and the Police General Operations Force including the latter's spouses are eligible to vote by post. This is clearly stated under sub regulation 3(1)(c) and (f) of the law.

Thus, the presence of a large number of postal voters from among the wives of of the Armed Forces and the Police General Operations Force personnel in the electoral roll is a normal phenomenon and should not be a matter of dispute by any party.

At the EC, applications for registration as postal voters from these two categories of electors (spouses of the Armed Forces and the Police General Operations Force personnel) is processed carefully to avoid double registration among them where in the EC ensures that a postal voter's name does not appear in the list of ordinary voters as well.

However, following the amendment to the Election Regulations (Conduct of Elections) (Amendment) (No. 2, 2012), which was made on 27 April 2012 and came into force on 30 April 2012, all Armed Forces personnel and their spouses, the Police General Operations Force personnel and their spouses and the Police will be voting in advance. Members of the Armed Forces, the Police and the Police General Operations Force who are on operational duty far away from their polling centres are allowed to apply to be absent voters and are thus able to vote by post.

ISSUE 13

There are about 280,000 voters in the EC's electoral roll whose records of the date of application is irregular (less than 21 years of age when applying for registration as an elector)

The EC denies the allegation that there are individuals verified as electors on 'dates prior to the dates of their birth', 'on the dates of their birth' or on 'the dates when they were still at the primary school going age' as the applicants under these categories do not have their identity cards as yet at these ages.

The EC's electoral roll contains the names of electors registered since 1958. At that point in time they were registered under the seasonal registration system using the manual method. These records of electors, which are now probably more than 50 years old were inherited by the EC, together with the records of newly registered electors, the majority of whom were registered using computers.

The EC does not deny the possibility that the old registration system that was not well organized, may have resulted in technical errors in the method of recording and keeping information about the date of application by the electors. These errors are believed to have occurred during the migration of records from the manual system to the computerized system. When preparing the data in the manual system to be input into the computerized system, all the records of the electors were given a common application date just to ensure that the record of all electors was complete in the computerized database.

However, it is important to note that despite the irregularities in the date of application stored in the EC database, the fact is that all these electors have actually gone through the verification process to ensure their eligibility as electors. This includes the display of the Draft Supplementary Electoral Roll, claims and objections based on legal provisions in force at the given time. All these electors have been certified and subsequently published in a gazette as registered electors in their respective registration areas as there were no objections made on their applications.

The EC will continue to verify as well as undertake further investigations on this list of electors. It will insert the date of one's application based on the date of the Principal Electoral Roll in which the name of the elector appeared for the first time as well as the date the electoral roll was published in the gazette.

ISSUE 14

The EC deliberately increases the size of localities to a mass National Front supporters in areas that have numerous Peoples' Alliance supporters.

A locality is the smallest unit in a polling district. There are several polling districts in a state constituency and there are two or more state constituencies within a Parliamentary constituency. Exception is the

Federal Territory where there are no state constituencies. Locality refers to a settlement that has at least one home or several homes and address such as a housing area, a village, long house, etc. Based on EC's records, the total number of localities established by the EC up to 2007 was 94,801 units. However, the number dropped to 79,044 unit since 2012. This means that between 2007 and 2012, the total number of localities decreased by 15,757 units.

This reduction in the number of localities was due to the merger of several small localities to form larger localities. The EC implements this to facilitate the use of electronic mapping applications using the Electoral Geographical Information System (EGIS) and not for other ulterior reasons as claimed by certain parties. Any merger involving more than one locality in a polling district will not result in a transfer of an elector since the merged localities remains within the same polling district.

With regards to the allegation that the EC's action in correcting the locality did not obtain the approval of the Parliament, the EC would like to emphasize that there is no legal provision that requires mergers of locality to be brought to the Parliament for approval before the EC can execute it.

ISSUE 15

There has been a sudden increase in the number of voters in several constituencies represented by the opposition candidates

The EC's initiative in aggressively promoting and calling out for people to register as voters, and the current atmosphere with the GE-13 fast approaching, would be the major factors contributing to the increase in the registration of electors up until the fourth quarter of 2011. An increase in total registration has occurred in all constituencies across the country.

However, there are several constituencies that recorded a higher increase than other constituencies, as observed in several states and in some particular constituencies. This is not surprising as till the middle of 2011 there were still 3.7 million citizens who are qualified to register but have yet to register as electors. The highest number of individuals who have yet to register by state would be in Selangor followed by the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, Johor, Perak and others. Thus, if the increase in the registration of new electors is high in the state of Selangor, this is to be expected as it has about 750,000 citizens who are qualified to register but have yet to register as of June 2011.

In some constituencies, the increase in total registration was rather high, exceeding 30% in some cases compared to the number of electors in 2008. This includes constituencies such as P.107 Subang (52%), P.158 Tebrau (42%), P.111 Kota Raja (45%), P.086 Pekan (41%), P.101 Hulu Langat (40%), P.103 Puchong (40%), P.102 Serdang (38%), P.014 Merbok (33%), P.032 Gua Musang (36%), P.159 Pasir Gudang (36%), P.162 Gelang Patah (34%) and P.097 Selayang (31%).

The increase in voter registration was not planned by the EC for any particular purpose, as alleged by some parties. Instead, it had occurred because there were many people who were eligible to register as voters across the country, including those in Selangor, who have yet to register as electors. As a result of aggressive promotion and the realization among them of the impending elections, they have come forward to register on a large scale via post offices, as well as through the help of assistant registrars appointed by the EC throughout the country.

ISSUE 16

The EC does not inform the electors involved of any change in the area of registration arising from corrections made to their localities

As regards informing electors about corrections made to their area of registration, the EC had already informed the electors involved of the changes through several methods and means as determined by the EC. These include transmitting the information through the political parties in the area of registration, through the member of the House of Representatives or the State Legislative Assembly for the area of registration involved and also by means of posting notices in places that are accessible to the public.

In addition to the above, the EC, through the respective State Election Offices, had sent letters to the electors involved to inform them of the changes made to their area of registration. However, based on the experience of the EC, most of these notification letters were returned to the EC as the electors involved had moved and did not inform the EC of their new addresses.

Hence, to avoid the confusion as regards the area of registration of an elector, the EC has encouraged the electors to check their area of registration by launching the Electoral Roll Checking Campaign, held during the months of June, August and September 2012. Throughout the campaign period, the EC provided the electors with facilities to check their area of registration by calling the EC's Call Centre at 03-8885 6565, or through the EC's website at www.spr.gov.my and through the short messaging system (SMS) by typing SPR <space> SEMAK <space> IDENTITY CARD NUMBER and sending it to 15888.

ISSUE 17

The EC's registration system is dubious as an applicant's name removed following objections reappears in the Draft Supplementary Electoral Roll in the following quarter

In accordance with Regulation 13 of the Elections (Registration of Electors) (Amendment) 2012, the EC puts on display the Draft Supplementary Electoral Roll for each quarter for a period of 14 days. During this period, the law provides for any applicant who has submitted an application for registration to submit a claim if the applicant finds that his name is not in the list.

During the period when the Draft Supplementary Electoral Roll is on display, one can also object to the inclusion of one or more names in the roll for specific reasons subject to the condition that a person can only object to the inclusion of a maximum of 20 names. For each objection made, the person who objects must pay a RM10 fee.

However, if a person whose name was removed from the roll because of objection in the past reapplies to be registered as an elector, the EC cannot reject his application. The application will be processed according to the provisions of the law. Provisions of the law does not allow a person whose name was not included in the previous supplementary electoral roll due to objection that was upheld by the Registrar from submitting a fresh application to be registered as an elector. Such an application will be processed according to the laws and regulations and the applicant will be confirmed as an elector if he fulfills the eligibility requirements and after the display of the draft electoral roll for claims and objections.

ISSUE 18

The EC attempts to defraud the electoral roll

There are claims made by certain parties that the EC allegedly attempted to deceive the Electoral to a large increase in the number of electors in the EC's Master Electoral Roll, which is approximately 1 million people in the year 2011.

The EC considers the statement slanderous, made purely with the intention to question image and credibility of the EC. What actually happened was that during the year 2011, the EC received the highest number of applications for new registration and change of address compared with previous years.

In 2011, the total number of applications certified by the EC was 1,319,077 electors. Of this number, 1,047,218 were certified as new electors while 271,859 electors' applications for change of address of polling centres were certified. The names of all these registered voters had gone through the registration process prescribed by law, including the display of the quarterly Supplementary Electoral Rolls for inspection by applicants and registered electors according to their respective areas of registration. During this period, they can object to the inclusion of any name in the roll if they consider there are elements that are inconsistent with regulations pertaining to the registration of electors.

Therefore, the EC vehemently denies the allegations made by any parties who try to relate the big increase in the number of electors in 2011 as an attempt by the EC to defraud the Electoral Roll. What is clear is that the big increase in the number of electors in 2011 is due to the aggressive and continuous campaign by the EC to register electors coupled with the seriousness seen among the public to register following speculation that the 13th General election will be held in 2011 or in early 2012.

ISSUE 19

The EC has appointed too many officers for the 13th GE

The EC will appoint 240,000 officials to assist in the conduct of the 13th General Election. They will be deployed throughout the country in various categories with different tasks as follows:

- An additional category of official called Polling Centre Supervisor will be appointed for each polling centre with more than one polling station;
- The total number of polling stations will increase to 26,017 in line with the increase in the number of electors which is currently at 13.3 million; and
- Implementation of the early voting system for the first time at the military and police premises require a separate group of officials for each polling station and they are different from the officials on duty on the normal polling day.

This increase in the number of EC officials is to accommodate the anticipated needs to ensure the smooth and orderly conduct of the 13th General Elections and not for any other reason as claimed by some parties. Further, it should be noted that not all of the EC's 240,000 officials will vote by post. In fact, the EC encourages officials working at polling centres close to the polling centre where they are to vote to go in person and vote just like any other ordinary voter. In relation to this, where it is possible the EC will try to appoint officials from among the local electors so that they can vote in person just like any ordinary voter on polling day.

ISSUE 20

The EC takes for granted the improvement of electoral process for the upcoming GE-13

The accusation that the EC takes for granted the improvement of electoral process for the upcoming GE-13 is false, especially considering suggestions from the Special Select Committee With Regards to The Electoral Reform Process.

As of now, the EC has clearly explained new measures to be implemented in the next general election through meetings with political parties, non-governmental organizations and also prospective EC staff who will be involved in the upcoming GE-13.

In addition, the EC had also spread the word about improvements that will be done during the upcoming 13th general election to the general public, particularly through the EC's website, print and electronic media, including through the publication of press releases and EC's involvement in specific programs organized such as interviews and special coverage that are held from time to time.

However, for the information of the public, the following is a brief description of improvement measures to be implemented by the EC at the upcoming GE-13;

i) The Usage of Inedible Ink

The EC will implement the use of indelible ink in the 13th General Elections in accordance with the revised Regulation 9 of the Elections Regulations (Conduct of Elections) 1981 (Amendment) Act 2012 which was published on 13 February 2012 and came into force on 15 February 2012.

Amendments to the Regulations empower the EC to mark voters' fingers with indelible ink before the ballot is issued to a voter.

The indelible ink has been tested and certified by the Department of Chemistry and has been confirmed that it cannot be removed by any means for a period of about a week. Certificate on behalf of the Ministry of Health has confirmed that it is safe to use, while the confirmation of the National Fatwa Council ruled that the indelible ink's content is legitimate and can be used by voters who are Muslims.

In terms of its implementation method, the indelible ink will be smeared at the top surface of the left index finger of voters, which would cover the nail and under the nail. If the voters do not have a left hand index finger, the ink will be smeared on any finger of his/her left hand. If voters do not have the left hand fingers, the ink will be smeared on any finger on his right hand. In situations where voters do not have both hands, then the indelible ink will be smeared on his/her arm; at an area that is visible.

ii) Early voting

The EC will implement early voting for military personnel and police officers, as well as their respective spouses; and PGA policeman couples at the 13th General Election, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 27A of the Election Rules and Regulations (Conduct of Elections) 1981 (Amendment) 2012 and Regulation 3 of the Election Rules and Regulations (Postal Voting) 2003 (Amendment) Act 2012 which was gazetted on 27 April 2012.

Early voting is aimed at reducing postal voting, which was previously disputed by some of the parties that consider it as non-transparent. It is a voting process carried out as per usual

in the presence of the voter, officers and agents of the candidates. The only difference between early voting and regular voting is the date of early voting, which would be held three days before the regular polling day.

For the purpose of ensuring the upcoming early voting runs smoothly, the EC has also provided guidelines for early voting procedures and would conduct a series of briefing to individuals who are involved with the early voting, including election officials, who shall be appointed by the EC to handle the early voting.

iii) Modifying the layout of the polling stations (channels) to increase the transparency of the voting process

For the purpose of improving transparency in the voting process at the polling station (channel), the EC had modified the layout of the channel by placing the Polling Agents (ETM) facing the entrance of the channel. This is to ensure that they can clearly see every voter who goes into the channel to vote. Previously, the ETM's position was parallel with the entrance, which they claim had caused difficulty in making an early identification of every voter's face that comes into the channel to vote.

iv) Disabled people (OKU) are allowed to bring trusted individuals to help the process of voting in a polling location

For the purpose of accommodating the people with special needs (OKU) to fulfill their responsibilities as voters during the GE-13, the EC has allowed the people with special needs to bring any individual whom they trust, in order to assist with the process of voting in the channel. With regards to allowing the matter to be carried out, the EC has amended the rule of 19

Elections Regulations (Conduct of Election) 1981 (Amendment) 2012 and was gazetted it on February 13, 2012.

Prior to the amendment of this regulation, voters with special needs are allowed to bring a named relative who is a registered voter, or if there are no relatives nominated, the Presiding Officer shall mark the voter's ballot in the manner that is instructed by the voter.

v) Nullified objections to the nomination papers on nomination day and providing allocation in regards to the prohibition of withdrawing nominations on nomination day

- (a) The EC would implement nullified protest against the nomination papers on the nomination day, in accordance with amendments on Regulation 7 of the Elections Regulations (Conduct of Elections) 1981 (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2012 which was gazetted on 27 April 2012 and came into force on 30 April 2012, and
- (b) The EC will also enforce the ban on withdrawing their candidature/nomination on the nomination day, as per the revised Regulation 9 of the Elections Regulations (Conduct of Elections) 1981 (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2012, which was gazetted on 27 April 2012 and came into force on 30 April 2012.

vi) Providing postal voting facilities to the media personnel

The EC has agreed to provide facilities for postal voting to media personnel working in rural areas for the next general elections. Categories of media personnel that will be given access to postal voting includes Chief Press Reporter, Assistant Chief Reporter, Press Reporter, TV Press, Radio

Journalist, Senior Journalist, Journalist, Online Reporter, Photo Journalist, Broadcast Journalist, Chief Reporter, Chief Reporter and Deputy Chief Reporter by zone, News presenter, TV Rapporteur and Radio Rapporteur.

They do, however, have to submit an application to the Returning Officer in their respective constituency in advance, in order to obtain the right to vote via post; which could be done through their employer, who will either support or not their application for the right to vote via post.

vii) Provide postal voting facility to Malaysians abroad

The EC has agreed to provide facilities for postal voting to all Malaysians abroad, other than those in the Absent Voters category, whom previously had enjoyed the available facilities.

However, they will be subject to certain conditions which are as follows;

- a) Malaysian Citizen
- b) Registered Voter
- c) Residing abroad except in Singapore, Southern Thailand, Brunei and Kalimantan, Indonesia
- d) Has been residing in Malaysia or returning to Malaysia in not less than 30 days within a period of 5 years, before the date of the dissolution of Parliament or Legislative Assembly in force.

For eligible voters, they need to inform the EC's which Malaysian Representative Office that they choose for the purpose of sending the priority envelope that contains a ballot paper to be marked. In this regard, the EC has already

secured the cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia to coordinate the delivery of sealed priority envelopes to the Malaysian Representative Offices overseas, and assist in bringing back the ballot papers that have been marked to be sent to all the Returning Officer for the areas involved. The EC hopes that in this way, all the ballot papers that have been marked would be delivered to the Returning Officer for the relevant constituency before 5.00 pm on the Election Day for the purpose of counting of votes.

viii) Extending the campaign period to not less than 11 days

In line with the availability of early voting, the EC has set the campaign period to be at least eleven days, in accordance with the amendments to Regulation 3 of the Elections Regulations (Conduct of Elections) 1981 (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2012; which was gazetted on 27 April 2012 and was enforced on 30 April 2012. However, the actual campaign period is subject to the decision of the EC, which would be decided in a special meeting of the EC upon deciding the dates relating to the conduct of elections later.

ix) Provide fair and independent media access to the candidates

The EC has held a series of meetings with the Ministry of Information, Communications and Culture (KPKK) to obtain its consensus in providing equal access to the media for all contesting parties in the 13th general election. As a result, the KPKK has agreed to give media access to all political parties in the upcoming 13th general election.

In this regard, a mechanism for the implementation of media access has been set, in which political parties must apply to the EC to secure a slot on the television (RTM) to publicize for their party's manifesto. All parties will be allocated between

5 to 10 minutes every day to broadcast their party's manifesto, which will be made in the form of a recording. At this point, the KPKK is finalizing media access guidelines, which will be extended by the political parties the moment they are finalized.

x) Cleaning up of the Electoral Roll list

In order to ensure a complete and accurate Electoral Roll during the 13th General Elections, the EC had systematically and continuously 'filtered' (cleaned up) the Electoral Roll with all involved parties; this includes the National Registration Department (JPN), National Prisons Department, National Royal Police Force (PDRM) and National Army Forces (ATM). The National Royal Police Force's role is to ensure that the EC's Electoral Roll is always updated, and only contains the names of eligible voters to be registered as a voter.

Among the clean up efforts undertaken by the EC is to ensure that there exists no double records amongst voters, including multiple public records with the army and with the police; updating voter information for those who have passed away and for those who were disqualified to register as voters; conduct of inquiries on the field for any complaints raised by the leaders of political parties and/or the public regarding issues of the Electoral Rolls. This includes, among others, complaints that many registered voters live or are registered with the same address, the address of registered voters are too general and is of a disputed existence, the correction of an error in the voter's personal information, such as the spelling of the name, Identity card number, gender and other similar complaints.

xi) The extension period of the Supplementary Electoral Roll (DPT) exhibition

In line with the EC's commitment in an effort to clean up the Electoral Roll, the EC has extended the duration of the DPT Bill exhibition from originally 7 days to 14 days commencing in the DPT Bill's Second Quarter (April-June) year 2012, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 13 of the Elections Regulations (Registration of Electors) (Amendment) 2012; and as recommended by the Special Select Committee With Regards to The Electoral Reform Process. The extension of the DPT Bill exhibition will enable all parties to carefully check the position of each new voter who is intended to be registered, to make claims, as well as objections if they have the foundation to do so.

In addition, for the purpose of objections during the DPT Bill exhibition, the EC has imposed the total number for Protested Individuals (OKB) per each opponent to increase from 10 people to 20 people, in line with the amendments to Regulation 15 of the Elections Regulations (Registration of Electors) (Amendment) 2012 which was gazetted on 24 April 2012 and came into force on 25 April 2012.

xi) Appointment of Election Observers

Recommendations related to election observers are not included in the recommendations for improvements proposed by the Special Select Committee With Regards to The Electoral Reform Process to the EC. However, recognizing that the existence of election observers can assist in highlighting the transparency of the EC in conducting the next general election, the EC has taken steps to induct 17 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) as local observers for the 13th general election. The NGO's are composed of five NGO's in peninsular Malaysia, which are the Youth

Council (MBM), Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS), the Center for Public Policy Study (CPPS), Merdeka Center for Opinion Research and Handicapped Associations Malaysia.

For the state of Sabah, three NGO's were appointed, which included the Historical Society of Malaysia Sabah Branch, Sabah Youth Council and Chinese Associations Sabah. For the state of Sarawak, nine NGO's were appointed according to zone divisions, where by the Kuching Zone consists of the National Association of Muslim Youth (PEMBINA) Sarawak Branch, National Association of Sarawak Malay, Orang Ulu National Association of Sarawak (OUNA) and Dayak Bidayuh National Association (DBNA); The Sibu zone consists of Sibu Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Melanau Sibu Association; whereas the Miri zone consists of the Chinese Association of Miri, Dayak Association of Miri and Federation of Orang Ulu Association (FORUM).

In addition to local observers, the EC is also considering the possibility of inviting observer from ASEAN countries to observe the conduct of the 13th general election. Efforts to ward this direction are being actively implemented and an announcement about it is expected to be made by the EC in the near future.

**The Secretariat
Election Commission of Malaysia**