



Original Version

擬修例讓海外國民郵寄投票

(吉隆坡4日訊) 馬來西亞選舉委員會沒有忽略百萬海外大馬人的投票權，積極研究如何修訂2002年選舉(選民註冊)條例，允許他們被列為郵寄選民。

選委會副主席拿督旺阿末說，選舉委員會正在探討這項可行性，也有意在世界各地的大馬使館安排一名選委會代理人，讓大馬公民能在當地大使館註冊為郵寄選民。同時，更新當地海外大馬選民資料。

他承認，現有的2002年選舉(選民註冊)條例，只允許留學生、公務員、軍人及與他們居住在海外的家屬可以在馬來西亞大使館以郵寄方式投票，卻沒有納入其他在海外的大馬選民。

旺阿末補充，現有的海外郵寄選票投票機制存在各種問題，特別是許多郵寄選票沒有按時送到計票中心。他認為整個機制有待改善。

「從提名到投票，時間很短。我們需要依賴外交部把選票寄到世界各地的大使館，這一來一往，很多海外郵寄選票都不能準時送到各選區的計票中心。」

沒設修訂期限

他今日接受《東方日報》訪問時說，除了受條例約束，選委會暫時缺乏完善的設備和人手，讓海外大馬選民投票；而且，選委會也無法偵察選民的動向。

「很多大馬人旅居國外後，沒向當地大使館報備，所以選舉時，這些選民就自動被列為普通選民。」

旺阿末強調，選委會從未忽略在海外大馬選民的權利，因此他勸請目前身在海外的大馬公民提供資料給馬來西亞大使館。一旦選委會建立好海外郵寄選票機制，就可以讓海外大馬選民在大使館投票。

他表示，有關修訂不需要提呈國會辯論，只需要提呈總檢察署尋求通過，然後向國會報告即可。不過，他沒給予一個明確的完成修訂期限。

擬劃出外坡選民

旺阿末也透露，選委會也正考慮把一些因工作關係而無法在大選投票日當天回到選區投票者列為「外坡選民」。

「這些外坡選民可在最靠近工作地點的選區投票，選委會將增設特別投票通道。」

針對一批居住在英國的大馬公民發起「海外大馬人—投票權利」運動，並擬籌款起訴選委會剝奪他們投票

權利。旺阿末表示，他們有權爭取自己的權益，畢竟公民投票權受到憲法保障。可是，他懷疑其中一些參與者並非註冊選民，但讚賞這些大馬新生代有投票的覺醒。

Translated into English by the Translator Studio (www.thetranslatorstudio.com)

Statutory Amendment Proposed to Allow Citizens Overseas to Vote by Postal Ballot

(Kuala Lumpur, 4 October) The Malaysian Election Commission is not neglecting the voting rights of a million Malaysians residing overseas, but is actively studying ways to amend the Elections (Registration of Electors) Regulations 2002 to make such persons entitled to postal votes.

The Vice-Chairman of the Election Commission, Datuk Wan Ahmad Wan Omar, said that the Election Commission is exploring various options. The Commission intends to appoint agents to represent the Election Commission in Malaysian embassies around the world, so that Malaysians can register themselves as postal voters at embassies. At the same time, the Election Commission intends to update the data of Malaysian voters overseas.

He admitted that the current Elections (Registration of Electors) Regulations 2002 only allows students, civil servants, military personnel and their family members living abroad to vote by postal ballot at Malaysian embassies, but that other Malaysian citizens are excluded from this privilege.

Wan Ahmad added that the existing mechanism is plagued by many problems which prevent postal ballots from arriving at counting centres in time. He believes that the entire mechanism should be improved.

"The time from nomination to voting is short. We need to rely on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to post ballot papers to embassies around the world. Ballot papers travelling back and forth are unable to be delivered to the constituency counting centres in time."

No Timeline for the Amendment

In an interview conducted by The Oriental Daily, he expressed the view that apart from the restriction imposed by the regulations, the EC currently lacks the proper facilities and manpower to allow overseas Malaysians to vote. Furthermore, the Commission is unable to keep track of voter migration.

"Many Malaysians living abroad do not report themselves to the local embassy. Therefore, these voters are automatically classified as ordinary voters during the election."

Wan Ahmad stressed that the Commission has never neglected the rights of overseas Malaysian voters, and urged citizens currently residing overseas to provide their details to the Malaysian embassy. Once the Commission has established a mechanism, overseas Malaysian voters will be able to vote at the embassy.

He said that the proposed amendment does not require to be debated in Parliament. The amendment only needs to be laid before Parliament after being approved by the Attorney General. However, he did not provide a timeline for the said amendment.

Plans to Establish a New Classification of "Outstation Voters"

Wan Ahmad also revealed that the EC is also considering to classify voters who are unable

to return to their constituencies on polling day as "outstation voters".

"The Commission will set up a special voting channel for outstation voters to cast their ballots at the constituencies nearest to their workplaces."

In response to a group of Malaysians living in the UK who have launched the "Malaysians Overseas - Right to Vote" campaign, which plans to raise funds to bring the Commission to court for denying them their voting rights, Wan Ahmad said that they had the right to fight for that, as a citizen's right to vote was guaranteed by the Constitution. But he suspected that some campaigners were not themselves registered voters. Nevertheless, he lauded the new generation of Malaysians for having awareness of their voting rights.

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