

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Reject Political Corruption, Uphold Reform Commitments**

Global Bersih strongly rejects Bersatu's Vice-President Tan Sri Abdul Rashid Abdul Rahman's support of patronage politics raised at Bersatu's Annual General Meeting on 30th December 2018.

It was even more disappointing that the Vice-President's comments were applauded by Bersatu's delegates. This was despite the Bersatu Youth chief, Syed Saddiq Abdul Rahman, speaking out against party members demanding government contracts and positions, "warning that these could be graft offences." (1)

The Vice-President was the former Electoral Commission (EC) Chairman from 1998 to 2008.(2) He now heads the Electoral Reform Committee (ERC).(3) His credibility leading the ERC is compromised by his support of such patronage politics.

Global Bersih strongly urges Bersatu and all parties in government to move forward with integrity, and to uphold their commitment to electoral and institutional reform.

The Pakatan Harapan government should:

- reject patronage politics and political corruption;
- maintain a truly independent Elections Commission (EC) and Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC);
- empower and strengthen the EC and MACC so that they keep corrupt practices in check.

The road to reform is long and hard. Malaysia must grasp this opportunity to become not only a better Malaysia for all, but also a country with a strong moral compass for governance. The new political leadership must not fail the rakyat who voted for good governance.

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(1) [https://m.malaysiakini.com/news/458243?utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=facebook](https://m.malaysiakini.com/news/458243?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook)

(2) <http://www.theedgemarkets.com/article/ex-ec-chief-approached-contest-ge13>

(3) <https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2018/11/432260/qa-erc-chairman-abdul-rashid-abdul-rahman>