

MEDIA STATEMENT

12th November 2022

Global Bersih: Election Commission must urgently clarify overseas postal ballot delivery process; overseas voters confused and concerned

Global Bersih calls upon the Election Commission to urgently provide clear information and more transparency on how postal ballots are being delivered to overseas Malaysians. Following our previous media statement dated 5th November, titled : **Sending out of postal ballots must be treated with urgency; embassies should support overseas voters** ,we now urge the Election Commission to react swiftly to address the current difficulties faced by overseas Malaysians due to late ballot arrival.

The vast majority of Malaysians around the world have still not received their postal ballots and have no idea when they will arrive. A few lucky voters have received their ballots while others have learnt through personal research on courier services apps that they will only be receiving their ballots on, or after, polling day on 19th November. In Germany, one voter has already received her ballot while another, voting in the same constituency, has been informed that she will only receive hers on the 18th. The ballot delivery situation is similarly patchy and unpredictable in other countries.

Global Bersih is receiving large numbers of queries, reports and complaints from overseas voters clearly demonstrating the confusion and concern resulting from the lack of clarity on the ballot delivery process. It is essential and urgent that SPR makes a public statement to explain the process and provide clarity and more predictability for overseas voters to allow them to organize themselves.

Global Bersih has also received information that ballots in Beijing have been quarantined for a week, making it practically impossible for voters to return their ballots in time. The Election Commission is urged to work with other government agencies to try to resolve this and other issues delaying postal ballot delivery.

Global Bersih is working with the Global Malaysian Network and volunteers around the world to help ensure that overseas Malaysian votes arrive in time to be counted on polling day. We are grateful to, and applaud, all the volunteers both in Malaysia and overseas who have been working night and day to make this happen by communicating information, collecting, sorting, running and flying back votes.

These immense efforts are necessary because the current voting system for overseas Malaysians is severely flawed, depriving many Malaysians outside the country of their right to vote, and also generating significant delivery costs for both voters and the government. Global Bersih calls upon the Election Commission to ensure that this does not happen again and to enact the reforms proposed by Global Bersih to improve the process.

Global Bersih is conducting a survey to collect data from overseas Malaysians that will be used to lobby for a better overseas voting system and encourages all overseas voters to support this data collection initiative.

<https://form.jotform.com/223104121007030>

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