

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**2nd November 2022**

### **Global Bersih: Sending out of postal ballots must be treated with urgency; embassies should support overseas voters**

Global Bersih urges the Election Commission to use its best efforts to issue and send postal ballots as quickly as possible to Malaysian voters overseas, to enable them to fulfil their right to vote. Unofficial sources estimate that about 50,000 overseas Malaysians have registered as postal voters, more than six times the number registered during GE14.

From Nomination Day to Polling Day, there will be only 14 days (10 business days) for the EC to issue and send postal ballots and for overseas voters to receive, mark and return their ballots. This is extremely challenging for voters who live in countries with long postal delivery times to and from Malaysia.

To maximise the time available for voters to return their ballots, the EC should ensure that the process of printing and sending out overseas postal ballots is treated with urgency by all involved. The EC should also use tracked mail to send overseas ballots and provide voters with the relevant tracking number to allow them to determine the most effective method to return their ballots in time. The vast majority of overseas voters will probably be unable to return their ballots through the regular postal service and will need to use expensive courier services or have them delivered by hand.

Global Bersih is working in collaboration with the Global Malaysian Network (GMN) platform to mobilise volunteers around the world to help overseas voters find Malaysian witnesses, and to coordinate ballot returns through people flying back or courier services. Anyone interested in joining this effort can register at: [bit.ly/ge15volunteers](https://bit.ly/ge15volunteers).

For local logistics, Global Bersih is in contact with the Malaysian-based organisations, under the UndiBanjir umbrella.

Global Bersih applauds the Embassies and High Commissions which are supporting Malaysians in their countries by facilitating postal voting through information and logistical support. We urge the Foreign Affairs Ministry to direct all foreign missions to follow their example.

Global Bersih warns the public against several fake or obsolete messages containing false information on the postal voting process which are currently circulating and causing confusion. Overseas voters will receive postal ballots directly at their declared addresses and will NOT have to collect ballots from embassies as claimed in some messages.

For accurate information, postal voters should check the SPR website at <https://www.spr.gov.my/>, or the Global Bersih website at <https://www.globalbersih.org/> and join Global Bersih's official Malaysia GE15 Overseas Postal Voting FAQ group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ge15postalvoting/>. A detailed infographic on how to complete and return postal ballots is available on Global Bersih's website(See attachment). Malaysians should avoid sharing or forwarding unverified information on social media and elsewhere.

Global Bersih calls upon all registered overseas postal voters to do their best to vote and return their ballots in time despite the hurdles that they are yet again facing. To help overcome these obstacles, Global Bersih and its national chapters in different countries are encouraging and helping overseas voters through information sessions on the postal voting process and logistical support.

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