BERSIH - Voting is a Constitutional Right...

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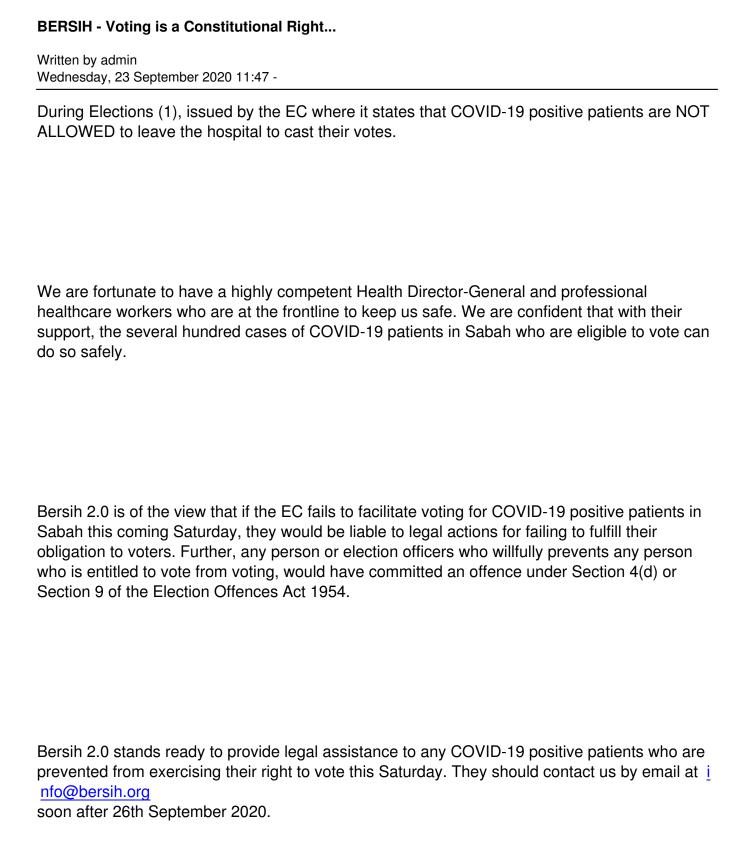


The Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections (Bersih 2.0) is appalled with the statement by Defence Minister Ismail Sabri that those who are confirmed COVID-19 positive would not be allowed to vote in the Sabah State Election this coming Saturday while others who have symptoms like fever and coughing and those quarantined will be allowed to vote.

A citizen's right to vote is enshrined in the Federal Constitution and no one can arbitrarily take that right away, not even a government minister or a special cabinet.

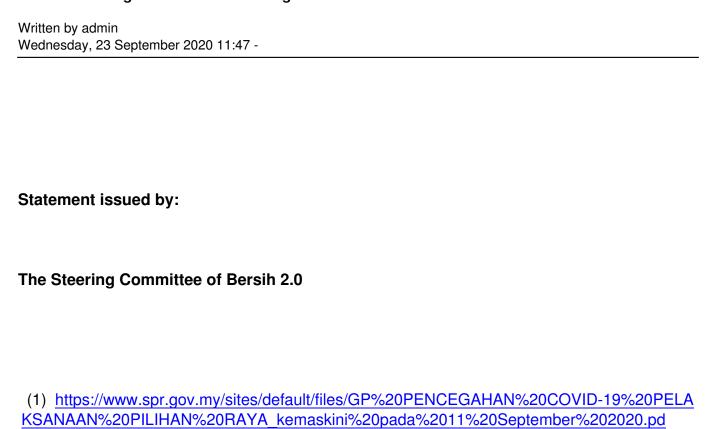
Article 119(1) states that "every citizen is entitled to vote in that constituency in any election to the House of Representatives or the Legislative Assembly unless he is disqualified under Clause (3) or under any law relating to offences committed in connection with elections." Clause (3) disqualify those who are of unsound mind and those serving imprisonment of more than 12 months.

The Election Commission (EC) is duty-bound to facilitate the casting of votes but those who are found to be COVID-19 positive during this Sabah State Election by making special arrangement for these patients to vote from the safety of hospital wards with the assistance of trained medical staff. This would be in compliance with the Guidelines for Prevention of COVID-19



We call on the EC to fulfill its duty and rise to the challenge of conducting elections safely even during a health crisis and demonstrate to the Malaysian public the importance of voting and the value of every single vote.

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