

ELECTORAL SYSTEM IN MALAYSIA: THE NEED FOR A REPRESENTATIVE
GOVERNMENT

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ABSTRACT

The gist of democratic election is to create a government that represents the voice of the people. This research was carried out to study the Malaysian electoral system and to identify whether our election system is in compliance with the gist of the democratic election that allows the establishment of a representative government and to identify the deficiencies in our system. To improve the deficiencies it is necessary to perform a comparative analysis of the different types of electoral systems practice in most part of the world and its implementation in some chosen countries in this research such as France, German, United Kingdom and South Africa. The comparative study is vital so as to see the strength and weaknesses of the other systems adopted in countries under research. From the comparative analysis the research proposed some recommendations to improve the deficiencies present in our electoral system. The result of this study may be useful as reference in improving our electoral system so that it is more democratic and accountable to the people, rather than focusing on winning the election which is not the pure purpose of having an election.

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1.0 Research Topic

Electoral System in Malaysia: The Need for a Representative Government

1.1 Research Background

Generally, election is a method by which voters make a choice between options. According to the oxford advanced learner dictionary, election can be defined as the process of choosing a person or a group of people for position especially political position.¹

Politically election is a system that allows people to elect their own government. This government must be representatives for the people and become their voice and accountable for their wishes in the parliament. It is important for the people to be given free and genuine choice between at least two choices or candidates to be their representative. For that purpose, several electoral systems have been created to reflect the votes cast by the electors. It is a main challenge to the nation to determine the best system to be exercise.

Unfortunately, elected assemblies are not always representative. Rules surrounding democratic election often lead to undemocratic results.² For instance, Malaysian Electoral system adopts the UK electoral system, called Simple Plurality System or first-past-the-post system. The hallmark of this system is that constituencies are single-member constituencies and candidate with the largest vote wins the electoral district even if those who endorse him do not constitute an absolute majority of the election.³ This raised an issue whether the election reflects

¹ Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary (Oxford University Press) 2011.

² See Professor Shad Saleem Faruqi, *Document Of Destiny: The Constitution of the Federation of Malaysia* (Star Publications (Malaysia) Bhd) p588.

³ Ibid at 591.