
【Liu Zhewei's column】 The new version of the anti-hopping method is worse than before



Liu Zhewei

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The new anti-hopping bill is worse than the previous because it ignores voters' voting intentions. (File photo: Perspective Malaysia)

Democracy is a model that itself faces many internal contradictions, however, for me, the basic principle of democracy is the will of the people. In a democratic country, the Constitution and the law are tools to protect the people's power, not contradict each other.

The current political landscape in Malaysia is one in which voting is skewed towards political parties rather than individual candidates. While I do not deny that there are isolated cases or that the recent increasing number of people are voting on the basis of individuals rather than political parties, in contrast, in contrast,

the voting tendency is still far more based on political parties than candidates. So, if we agree to uphold the will of the people, in fact, on a moral level, the people's vote is given to the political party and not to the individual.

Having established my argument above, let's talk about the newly amended anti-hopping bill.



I am pleased that the retention in the new bill will repeal Article 48(6), which prohibits resignation from running for parliament for five years. (File photo: Perspective Malaysia)

First of all, I am pleased that the retention in the new bill will repeal Article 48(6), which prohibits resignation from running for parliament for five years.

As for restricting independent MPs from joining political parties (unless the country's MPs resign first and then run), I don't have much to say because both sides have reasonable arguments.

If independents without party affiliation join a political party, it is unjustifiable not to betray the electorate's mandate. Conversely, voters vote for independent MPs because they are independents, not for any political party. In any case, this is not common unless it is a rare case (where independents win seats).

However, I disagree with the inclusion of the new bill that if a member of parliament is expelled from his or her political party, he can still remain a member, which I find laughable. If an elected MP is no longer loyal to the party, but resignation disqualifies him, his only option is to remain in the party, but his various actions are opposed to his party.

In other words, when the MP votes in the parliament chamber, he does not align himself with the party, which is simply depriving the party of a vote.

When someone says that the option is to recall the election and bring down the MP, from my point of view, even if there is a recall election in our country, why should the party be redundant? This is also the principle point I put forward at the beginning of my article.

In Malaysia, before voting preferences shifted from party preference to candidate preference, any seat morally belonged to a political party. Even if the leadership of a party abuses his power, MPs are innocent or politically victimized can still be protected. Since article 48 (6) would be eliminated, he could re-run in the by-election.



In Malaysia, before voting preferences shifted from party preference to candidate preference, any seat morally belonged to a political party. (File photo: Perspective Malaysia)

If he can win back seats with the support of himself (or his new party), then the seat will naturally belong to him. Otherwise, it is morally wrong to claim that the seats are "owned".

My second concern is that if a party dissolves or merges with another party, their MPs are not job-hopping. For the former, I don't have much of a problem, but for the latter, I don't think it's right. Do voters vote for individual parties or a coalition? If it is the former, the new provision is fine, because the vote is indeed for the party, but if it is the latter, then it is a betrayal of the will of the voters and contrary to the original intention of the vote.

My conclusion is that this new version of the anti-hopping bill is worse than the previous version because it ignores voters' voting intentions. If the government really intends to improve the anti-job-hopping law, it should consider repealing Section 18C of the Associations Registration Act, which transfers jurisdiction over political party matters to the judiciary.

Second, redefine the withdrawal of political parties from the coalition as job-hopping, unless these parties are elected with their own logo, not the alliance's logo, otherwise these seats should belong to the coalition party.


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