

# 【刘哲伟专栏】 地方政府选举是势在必行



**刘哲伟**

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笔者认为，选举委员会也没有必须举行地方选举的义务。（档案照：透视大马）

首先，我同意从法律上来讲，地方选举不能通过合法手段进行。由此可见，选举委员会也没有必须举行地方选举的义务。但实际上，赋予州政府任命地方市议员的权利，意味着州政府实际上可以任命当地想要的人出任，这在莫哈末尼查担任霹雳州务大臣期间曾发生过。因此，这实际上是一种愿意发生或不愿发生的问题。

其次，反对举行地方政府选举的最大论点是团结问题。坦白说，这是因为大多数城市居民是华人，进行地方选举将导致大多数城市地区的地方政府被华人主导。这是事实，无需争论。

我对此的看法是，在健康的民主中，一个人不能也不应该通过身份的名义回避健康民主的过程。在民主和团结之间取得平衡很重要，但绝对不能因为团结而完全忽视民主。例如，在吉兰丹和登嘉楼是同质化的。我们不能否认同质性，也不能否认选民的民主权利。

同样，即使地方选举的结果在城市地方政府中向华人倾斜，在郊区的地方政府中则偏向马来人，那就这样吧。

然而，如果任何政府认为在单一地方政府内需要在不同种族之间取得平衡，为什么不在必要时从指定系统开始呢？例如，在新加坡，经过几届没有反对党国会议员后，他们创建了非选区国会议员，以增加反对党国会议员的人数。

类似的原则适用于上议院、沙巴州议会、登嘉楼州议会和彭亨州议会，少数族群可以被受委为国会议员。这样一来，就可以在地方议会和地方政府内实现身份的平衡构成。

当然，在我以上的建议中，我认为应该从一开始就分阶段逐步取消。换言之，未来任何因性别或种族而给予的任何优势都应该被废除。与其在未来想要取消优势体制时面临反对，我建议从一开始就引入逐步取消系统。

对于第一次地方选举，我建议最多可以任命额外的70%地方议员。当然，如果没有必要，政府并不需要使用完所有的名额。对于市议会和市政厅，上限为24人，将其转换为民选固定的24人，再允许受委最多16人。此后的每次地方选举，被受委成员的上限将从最初的70%逐渐减少10%。

这意味着在有受委成员范围经历7次选举之后，当进行第8次地方选举时，就不会再有受委议员。

在我看来，约30年的过渡期，这是合理且有道理的。若提早规划并给与30年的过渡期，整个社会结构依然如旧，那就是社会和领导们的能力问题了。同时，社会也不应再仅仅因为身份而简单地摒弃地方政府选举的想法。

此外，随着越来越多的政党将自己转变为多元化和多样化的政党，内部安排本身将确保身份构成的平衡。

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# [Liu Zhewei Column] Local government elections are inevitable



**Liu Zhewei**

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*The author believes that the Election Commission is not obliged to hold local elections. (File photo: Malaysian Insight)*

First, I agree that, legally speaking, local elections cannot be conducted through legitimate means. Therefore, the Election Commission is not obligated to hold local elections. However, in practice, granting the state government the power to appoint local councillors means that the state government can, in effect, appoint whomever the local government desires, as happened during the tenure of Mohammad Nizar as the Perak Menteri Besar. Therefore, it's really a question of willingness or unwillingness.

Secondly, the biggest argument against holding local government elections is the issue of unity. Frankly, this is because most urban residents are Chinese, and holding local elections would result in local governments in most urban areas being dominated by Chinese. This is a fact and there is no need to argue.

My view on this is that in a healthy democracy, one cannot and should not sidestep the democratic process in the name of identity. Striking a balance between democracy and unity is important, but democracy should never be completely neglected for the sake of unity. For example, Kelantan and Terengganu are homogeneous. We cannot deny homogeneity, nor can we deny the democratic rights of voters.

Likewise, even if the results of local elections tilt towards the Chinese in urban local governments and towards the Malays in suburban local governments, so be it.

However, if any government believes that a balance between different races is needed within a single local government, why not start with a designated system if necessary? For example, in Singapore, after several terms without opposition MPs, they created non-constituency MPs to increase the number of opposition MPs.

Similar principles apply to the Senate, Sabah State Legislative Assembly, Terengganu State Legislative Assembly and Pahang State Legislative Assembly, where minorities can be appointed as members of parliament. This will achieve a balanced composition of identities in local councils and local governments.

Of course, in my proposal above, I believe that a phased-out system should be implemented from the outset. In other words, any future advantages given based on gender or race should be abolished. Rather than facing opposition later when we want to eliminate the system of advantages, I recommend introducing a phased-out system from the outset.

For the first local elections, I propose appointing up to an additional 70% of local councillors. Of course, the government doesn't have to use all of these seats unless necessary. For city councils and town halls, the cap is 24,

converting this to a fixed, elected 24, with a maximum of 16 appointed. With each subsequent local election, the cap on appointed members will be reduced by 10% from the initial 70%.

This means that after seven elections with appointed members, there will be no more appointed members when the eighth local election is held.

In my opinion, a 30-year transition period is reasonable and justifiable. If a 30-year transition period is planned in advance and the entire social structure remains unchanged, then that is a problem of the capacity of society and its leaders. At the same time, society should no longer simply abandon the idea of local government elections based on identity.

Moreover, as more and more parties transform themselves into pluralistic and diverse parties, the internal arrangements themselves will ensure a balance in identity composition.

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