

# Council 'yes' to indelible ink

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**PUTRAJAYA:** The National Fatwa Council has approved the use of the silver nitrate indelible ink for the general election as it fulfils Islamic requirements.

Its chairman Tan Sri Dr Abdul Shukor Husin said the ink was found to be free from any non-halal substance, non-hazardous and permeable.

"These are the three criteria set by the council to see whether the indelible ink can be used in the election.

"Based on the analysis from the Chemistry Department, the ink was found to have met the requirements. As such, the council agreed to the use of indelible ink. It can be implemented," he said after chairing a meeting on the matter yesterday.

The meeting, held at the Malaysian Islamic Development Department (Jakim), was attended by representatives from the Election Commission (EC), Chemistry Department, Health Ministry and the muftis.

Dr Abdul Shukor said the criteria were set to ensure that when the ink was applied on Muslims, it could absorb water and did not forbid them from performing prayers.

"The analysis also showed that the ink would not cause any harmful side effects," he said.

EC chairman Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Mohd Yusof, in an SMS reply to *The Star*, said the commission would wait for the council's official notification on the matter.

Abdul Aziz, had in December, announced

that the commission had agreed to several recommendations by the Parliamentary Select Committee on electoral reforms, and the use of indelible ink was one of them.

He said the ink, which contains silver nitrate, had been identified and sent to various departments for further testing to ensure it was safe.

In 2008, the council had given its approval on the use of a type of indelible ink for the general election but the EC decided not to use it because of a potential security breach.