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Contractors association's election declared null and void

PENANG, Wed. - The 22nd annual general meeting and election of new office-bearers of the Penang Malay Contractors Association has been declared null and void by its umbrella body, the Malaysian Malay Contractors Association (PKMM).

PKMM informed the Penang Malay Contractors Association's president Md Ibrahim Md Ismail of this in a letter dated July 20 and signed by PKMM secretary-general Senator Rosli Mat Hassan.

Effective from the date too, PKMM had made it clear that Ibrahim and 14 others in the committee will have to step down and that the presidency had been handed back to Ismail Zakarya whom Ibrahim defeated by 41 to 26 votes in April.

The letter said that a special committee at PKMM had made the ruling on July 16 after deliberating an appeal by Ismail, who is also PKMM vice-president, to have the April 4 election declared null and void.

Ismail has also been empowered with the authority to call for a fresh annual general meeting and election after PKMM's annual general meeting on Aug 20 which will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Ismail's appeal said 23 new members who were yet to be accepted as official members of the Penang Malay Contractors Association had attended the annual general meeting and voted in the election of new office-bearers.

However, the ruling has not gone down well with Ibrahim, who is also one of the 23, and his committee members.

Speaking at a press conference today, Ibrahim said according to the 1997 annual general meeting and end-of-year accounts report submitted on April 4, the Penang Malay Contractors Association had accepted the new members and collected their fees.

"The report was endorsed by the then chairman Ismail, secretary Jamil Mohamed Noor and treasurer Ilias Othman, and audited by Aziz Tahir & Co.

"Ismail did not protest against the 23 members in the report or on March 28 when he was the Penang Malay Contractors Association's special committee chairman to handle election nominations."

Also present were Penang Malay Contractors Association committee members Abu Yaziz Husin and Abdul Rahman Ismail.

Ibrahim has sent an appeal to PKMM to overturn the ruling by August 20.

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