

BN buying votes in Lanang and Sibul, claims DAP

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By Kow Gah Chie

Sarawak DAP has alleged that vote buying is rampant in the Lanang and Sibul parliamentary seats, where voters are being offered RM1,000 to support BN candidates on May 5.

The voters have been offered RM300 as an upfront payment, with the balance to be paid if the candidates secure victory, alleged Wong Ho Leng (left), the state party head at a press conference today.

However, Wong could not provide documentary proof of his claim.

He said an "uncountable" number of voters had claimed to have been offered the bribe, but that none are willing to go public with this.

"Many of them took the money and donated it to DAP, but they are not willing to come out," he said.

DAP's Dudong assemblyperson Yap Hoi Liong, without pointing a finger at any party, said he received a similar complaint in Lanang, where Chinese Malaysian urban voters have been offered as much as RM1,500 each.

He said the voters had received the offer either during door-to-door visits by campaigners or through relatives, friends and colleagues who have been appointed as agents.

In the Iban community, the longhouse heads have been offered as much as RM10,000 to persuade voters to cast their ballots against DAP candidate, he said.

"The voters must be clear. (They can) take the money but should not give their votes (in return)," he said

Yap said he does not condone bribery, but argued that there are families who need the money.

Immediate denial

Sarawak United People's Party's candidates Tiong Thai King (Lanang) and Vincent

Lau (Sibu) have denied any involvement.

"This is their (the DAP's) tactic, to create speculation (among voters). So, voters will be unhappy if they do not get paid.

"They are lying and this is nonsense, don't trust them," Tiong (left) said when contacted.

Lau said called himself "a man of integrity who would not cheat voters", and attributed the allegation to DAP's anxiety.

Even as deputy managing director in an established company, Lau said he has "no money to pay every voter a RM1,000".

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