

## **Penang PKR files two petitions over 'polls fraud'**

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**By Susan Loone**

Penang PKR has filed two petitions over alleged electoral fraud for the Balik Pulau parliamentary and Teluk Bahang state constituencies to declare the just concluded general election polls null and void.

The petitions are also to disqualify the BN candidates who had won in those constituencies on May 5.

Balik Pulau candidate Muhammad Bakhtiar Wan Chik filed his petition on Tuesday and Teluk Bahang candidate Abdul Halim Hussain filed his yesterday at the Penang High Court.

"We want a clean election and the Election Commission is responsible for this," said Abdul Halim, who is interim state legislative assembly speaker.

"Other than this, we have lodged reports with the police and Election Commission on May 10 and Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) on May 13," he told a press conference today.

"We want the courts to deny the results due to many irregularities, bribery and cheating," he added.

Accompanying him were Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng, Deputy Chief Ministers Rashid Hasnon (I) and P Ramasamy (II), state executive councillor and Batu Maung assemblyperson Abdul Malik Kassim, and lawyer and former PKR Batu Uban assemblyperson S Raveentharan.

penang pkr adun raveentharan police reportRaveentharan (left), Abdul Halim's legal counsel, said the petition was filed to declare the results null and void and to disqualify the winning candidate.

He added that Abdul Halim has paid RM10,000 personally for the filing of the petition and that the party would be raising funds for the rest of the costs, which may come up to RM30,000-RM50,000.

"Abdul Halim has a very good fighting chance in this case and we cannot reveal the details of the grounds for petition as we do not want to jeopardise the case," he added.

Meanwhile, Abdul Halim, when asked to detail the grounds for the petition to be filed, said "They include open payment as rewards for voting the BN candidate, mix-up of parliament and state seats results and in one stream, a voter was given a different serial number."

"When we lodged a police report on this, we were told to go to the MACC. We want them to investigate whether this is an open bribe, a get-rich-quick scheme or money laundering," he added.

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