

Ramkarpal wins, all others lose deposit
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Ramkarpal Singh has retained his late father's seat with a handsome win over his rivals consisting of Parti Cinta Malaysia (PCM) vice-president Huan Cheng Guan and two Independents.

He is declared winner with 89 percent of the votes, or a majority of 37,659 votes.

Huan and Independents Mohamed Nabi Bux Mohd Nabi Abdul Sathar and Abu Backer Sidek have lost their deposits.

9.01pm: Returning officer Anwar Yahaya declares Ramkarpal the winner of the Bukit Gelugor by-election, with a majority of 37,659 votes.

The final official results are as follows:

DAP - 41,242 (88.9 percent)
PCM - 3,583 (7.7 percent)
Mohamed Nabi Bux - 799 (1.7 percent)
Abu Backer - 225 (0.5 percent)
Spoilt votes - 539 (1.2 percent)

The turnout is 56.3 percent.

8.29pm: DAP supporters chant "Celaka! Celaka! Celaka!" in celebration, in reference to a remark by DAP assemblyperson RSN Rayer against Umno which sparked anti-DAP protests this week.

Meanwhile, PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu, who is among the crowd, says the low turnout was as there was "no fight" in Bukit Gelugor.

He says that the results also show that Ramkarpal's opponents did not manage to get enough votes from the Malay areas.

"The votes that PCM and the independents get are from BN supporters. There would have been higher turnout if BN contested," he says.

8.15pm: Election Commission chairperson Abdul Aziz Mohd Yusof says the low voter turnout is due to BN not contesting.

"When BN doesn't contest, other voters don't feel the need to vote. Secondly, even BN supporters don't come out to vote," he adds.

The EC also did not expect voters working outside of Penang and Bukit Gelugor to return home to vote.

8.15pm: The unofficial final tally sees Ramkarpal defending the seat with 37,729 votes. He received 89 percent of total votes cast.

All three other candidates fail to garner the required one-eighth of votes cast in order to get their RM10,000 deposit back.

The unofficial final results are:

DAP - 41,244 (89.03 percent)
PCM - 3,548 (7.66 percent)
Mohamed Nabi Bux - 772 (1.67 percent)
Abu Backer - 221 (0.48 percent)
Spoilt votes - 542 (1.17 percent)

Majority: 37,696 (81.37 percent)

The unofficial tally, however, does not include postal votes.

The announcement is met with shouts of joy by his supporters, who carry him and chant his name as he throws his fist into the air in victory.

His mother Gurmit Kaur and brothers Gobind and Jagdeep hug and kiss him.

There are also some chanting their later father Karpal's name.

8.05pm: Ramkarpal's majority is now a whopping 30,068, despite the low turnout.

However, with about 6000 votes left to the tally, the lawyer will be unable to match his late father's winning majority of 41,778 votes.

There is still hope for PCM's Huan to get back his deposit, but not the two Independent candidates.

They need about one-eighth of votes cast or about 5,600 votes each to get their RM10,000 back.

The unofficial tally so far:

DAP - 33,695

PCM - 3,627
Mohamed Nabi Bux - 966
Abu Backer - 239
Spoilt votes - 405

7.30pm: Voting streams data indicate that PCM had won most of their votes from three areas.

They are mixed area Bukit Gelugor (184 or 12.73 percent) and Malay-majority areas Taman Tun Sardon (359 votes or 20.48 percent) and Kampung Melayu (433 votes or 29.34 percent).

It appears that PCM had attracted the votes which went to the BN in 2013.

Meanwhile, Ramkarpal's majority widens to 14,816 votes.

7.00pm: With unofficial results showing a lead of 10,850, Ramkarpal is set to retain the Bukit Gelugor seat.

He now has 12,375 votes against Parti Cinta Malaysia (PCM)'s 1,525.

Mohamed Nabi Bux has 462 votes while Abu Backer has 133 votes - lower than the spoilt votes (159).

The Independent candidates are unlikely to get back their RM10,000 deposits.

Meanwhile, the mood is relaxed at the Bukit Gelugor DAP operations centre, with party workers following the Thomas Cup instead.

6.41pm: Ramkarpal powers on. Unofficial results so far:

DAP - 5,478
PCM - 677
Mohamed Nabi Bux - 148
Abu Backer Sidek - 50
Spoilt votes - 64

6.28pm: Unofficial results show that DAP managed to win Malay-majority area Kampung Melayu with 869 votes against PCM's 433, Mohamed Nabi Bux's 112 and Abu Backer's 29 votes.

Kampung Melayu is one of the only two polling districts DAP lost to the BN in 2013. The other is Sungai Gelugor.

Meanwhile, the three non-DAP candidates are looking at an uphill climb to get back their deposits.

To get back their RM10,000, they need to get one-eighth of the votes cast. If turnout was 56 percent this is about 5,600 votes.

6.17pm: DAP's Ramkarpal pulls away further ahead of his opponents, with a majority of 2,863 votes.

Unofficial results show he has received 3,139 votes against PCM vice-president Huan Cheng Guan's 215, Mohamed Nabi Bux's 45 and Backer's 16.

There are 20 spoilt votes so far.

The official turnout rate has yet to be announced.

However, DAP sources say that if it is 56 percent, Ramkarpal is expected to maintain his late father Karpal Singh's winning majority of 41,778 votes.

This means that he is expected to get roughly 43,500 of the 45,000-odd votes cast.

Turnout at 4pm was 53 percent.

6.02pm: Unofficial results show Ramkarpal establishing a huge lead with 2,725 votes while PCM's Huan has received 177.

Whereas Independents Mohamed Nabi Bux secured 27 votes and Abu Backer 10 thus far.