



**Exco: Merbok PKR marred by ruckus
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Kedah exco S Manikumar has claimed that the PKR Merbok division meeting was marred by 'violence' yesterday when division members attacked, threatened and verbally assaulted him.

The Bukit Selambau state assemblyperson lodged a report over the matter with the Kuala Muda district police station near Kuala Kedah early yesterday afternoon.

Manikumar (*left*) said that in the meeting at a community hall in Bedong, there were "irregularities" that led to hullabaloo when party election officers stopped the election proceedings.

"There were feelings of discontent among certain division members who acted violently and attacked me, threatened and used expletives against me.

"I feel my safety and that of my family are under threat," said Manikumar in his police report.

Malaysiakini yesterday reported that elections at PKR's Merbok and Jerai divisions in Kedah had been postponed over allegations of irregularities.

Elections for the chair of the Merbok division garnered attention when incumbent Abdul Rashid Din withdrew, resulting in PKR supreme council member Saiful Izhah Ramli to being the sole candidate for the position.

For the position of deputy-chairperson, meanwhile, Manikumar - who also holds the trade portfolio - faces off against vice-chairperson Mukhtar Ismail.

Manikumar could not be reached despite repeated attempts to contact him. It is understood that he is in Thailand over an official state matter.

PKR party elections committee chairperson Dr Molly Cheah (*left*), when contacted, said she does not yet have a clear picture of the incident in Merbok. She admitted, however, that she "has heard" about it.

PKR elections officer Raden Shamsulkamar Raden Shamsudin today confirmed the postponement of the Merbok division meeting and elections.

He said the elections committee had received reports from officers tasked at the division of "a group that had raised a ruckus".

"We are waiting for the full report from the officers and will carry out investigations," he said, adding that he expects an accurate picture can be gotten next week.

"We will issue an official statement (about the matter) after that," he added.

Other than Jerai, Raden Shamsulkamar said further, division meeting and elections had proceeded without incident.

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