

PKR Kota Raja polls: It's almost in the bag for Xavier
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The counting of votes for PKR's Kota Raja division - which was transferred to the party headquarters at Merchant Square in Petaling Jaya after disruptions in Kota Raja yesterday - was still ongoing as of 8pm today.

The counting of ballots for the main posts has been completed including that for the division chief.

According to source close to Xavier Jeyakumar (*left*), the Selangor exco member who contested the division chief's post, he has won handsomely, garnering a total of 883 votes.

His two opponents S Kottapan and M Telaiamlam only gained 145 and 138 respectively.

Jeyakumar's team also swept up all the main posts in the division and its two wings. The source, however, said that these figures were still unofficial.

According to him, the final official tally would be slightly different because some members would have mistakenly cast their ballots for the main posts into the wrong ballot box and those ballots were still being counted at press time.

Admitted to hospital

Yesterday, the Kota Raja election process proceeded smoothly until supporters of different candidates disrupted the counting process which resulted in scuffles.

Police reports have been lodged and following this, the division's ballot boxes were sent to PKR's headquarters in Petaling Jaya for counting today.

Yesterday's fracas resulted in several Kota Raja division members being injured and sent to hospital. Jeyakumar, himself, apparently was threatened with physical harm.

Kottapan, who was among those hospitalised, has lodged a police report claiming he was assaulted by Jeyakumar and his supporters.

Both his sons, 20 and 13, were also injured from the melee. The 13-year was admitted after being hit with a chair while the older boy suffered a torn muscle. All three were taken to the Sri Kota Medical Centre.

"The officers from the party headquarters are all Azmin Ali's people. Xavier supports Azmin so Xavier wants to ensure his supporters win," claimed Kottapan.

"Whenever members went in to vote, the officers were telling them who vote for number one which is Xavier. I refused to let the counting to go but when I asked them stop, they told me that they couldn't do it as only the central committee had the powers."

"I called Molly Cheah (PKR elections committee chief) and explained what was going. She said 'okay' and accepted my complaint but they still didn't want to stop the counting," he added.

"When I tried to stop them Xavier punched and kicked me. This is the worst elections we have experienced."

'Tension high'

Met at a book launch in Petaling Jaya earlier today, Jeyakumar denied having resorted to violence during polling yesterday.

"I didn't punch or kick anyone [...] but what do you when someone barges in and tries to throw and tear up the ballots?" he asked.

As the division's incumbent chief, he said he was compelled to 'protect and safeguard' the ballot boxes from any harm.

"Tension and frustration were running high and it did get rough but we managed to settle it within minutes," said Jeyakumar.

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