

Decision on PKR division woes on Sunday
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PKR supreme council will decide this weekend the fate of about 20 of its divisions where complaints have arisen regarding the conduct of their recent annual meetings.

Some time, however, may also be spent on deciding which of the problematic divisions' annual meetings - and their nominations for the upcoming party polls - will be 'recognised' given the complaints that have been raised.

With three-quarters of the 167 divisions nationwide are said to have completed their annual meetings, these 20 or so divisions may have their nominations annulled and be ordered to reconvene their annual gatherings as well as submit fresh nominations for the polls.

According to party sources, among the complaints registered with the party election committee overseeing the party polls pertains to one division chief in Sabah who allegedly was still a Umno member when he was recently voted into the position.

"He was said to have only relinquished his membership in Umno after he was elected the division head," said one source.

Several complaints pertained to the participation of PKR members in meetings of divisions where they allegedly did not belong.

Allegation proven untrue

Other complaints submitted to the committee pertaining to division meetings that were "not conducted properly".

These include complaints about notices of meeting not properly sent out, and that some members were not informed of changes in venue.

One complaint, in particular, that stood out concerned a annual division meeting in Sabah in which PKR state liaison leaders allegedly sidelined the division exco, and "took over and conducted the meeting."

When contacted, Sabah PKR liaison secretary Kanul Gindol said his committee's investigations into the allegation that a party division head was still a member of Umno member had proven otherwise.

"As far as the liaison committee is concerned, there are no Umno members in Sabah PKR," said Kanul when contacted.

'Party alive and kicking'

Meanwhile, PKR deputy secretary-general Dr Xavier Jeyakumar described the complaints as mere allegations until they had been confirmed and as "nothing out of the ordinary" given the party's upcoming polls.

A party source cited a PKR election committee member who, in a meeting where these complaints were discussed, said rather euphemistically that the complaints only reflect the enthusiasm of PKR members and non-members who want to be involved in the party.

"This shows PKR is alive and kicking. It's just that the PKR members are kicking each other!" said the source citing the committee member.

When contacted, election committee secretary Ahmad Shabrimi Mohd Sidek confirmed the committee had received the said complaints but declined to specify any more details such as where the complaints came from.

The committee will meet on April 14 to finalise findings and recommendations, and these will be proposed to the supreme council the next day, said Shabrimi.

"We are an independent body set up by the party, and our task is to acquire the facts of the matter, and to present the findings as well as our recommendations to the supreme council. The final decisions belong to the council," he said.

Sunday's emergency council meeting will also see the selection of the party's candidate for the Ijok by-election that will take place April 28.

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