

PKR division elections in chaos
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PETALING JAYA - The elections at several Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) divisions over the weekend were disrupted by vandalism, verbal assault and balloting irregularities, *The Star* reported.

It was reported that groups of men had stormed into the Klang and Kapar meetings earlier on Monday smashing ballot boxes, chairs and tables.

It brought the total number of divisions that have had to postpone meetings to sevens, as reports of heated arguments, phantom voters and vote rigging plagued last weekend's series of AGMs and division polls.

According to *The Star*, there were heated exchanges on Sunday at Kuala Langat, Subang Jaya, Petaling Jaya Utara, Lembah Pantai and Shah Alam where two executive councillor, Rodziah Ismail and Yaakob Sapari were pitted against each other.

Wanita member Norliza Ismail was said to have fainted when a Selangor state executive councillor had allegedly punched his opponent while the latter's son suffered hand fractures.

The division meeting in Kuala Nerus, Terengganu was also called off on Saturday over complaints that the ballot papers were not updated.

Kapar MP S. Manikavasagam, who is contesting the vice-presidency, complained that the division's 5,000 members were angry because the elections were not free, fair and transparent; and some of the contenders' names were not on the ballot paper while those who had pulled out of the race appeared.

PKR election officer Raden Shamsulkamar Raden Shamsudin believed that there were sabotaging intentions saying yesterday's ruckus had been "purposely stirred by paid mercenaries."

Police had helped to transfer a total of 20 ballot boxes to the PKR headquarters on Sunday following scuffles in the Kota Raja division where one of the contenders, Kotappan Supiah, voiced out dissatisfaction when the voting papers were being sorted out.

Counting started at 1.50am Monday and was headed by PKR deputy secretary-general Sharifah Shahidah.

Meanwhile, Lembah Pantai MP Nurul Izzah Anwar won the Lembah Pantai PKR division chief post securing 429 votes which saw her defeating acting chief Johari Musa (123 votes), Lembah Pantai Youth chief Muhamad Azrul Azmi (five) and Sahrudin Baharom (one).

Nurul was quoted as saying in *The Star*, "The situation was rather tense but under control," as some contenders demanded for a recount while others have tried to force through the door of the tallying centre to witness the counting process but failed.

Selangor executive councillor Elizabeth Wong failed to defend her Petaling Jaya Utara post while vice-president contender R. Sivarasa lost his post as Subang division chief.

In Negri Sembilan, Teluk Kemang MP Kamarul Baharain lost the division chief post to Port Dickson assemblyman M.Ravi.

Mohd Noor Kamil Abd Samad pulled out of the race which resulted in Batu MP Tian Chua remaining unopposed as the Batu division chief.

Division elections began on Sept 17 and will end on Oct 3.

Election for the national party posts is scheduled between Oct 29 and Nov 21.

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