

PKR aims to disqualify Zahid's polls win with video evidence of 'bribery'
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PETALING JAYA, June 12 – PKR will seek to invalidate Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi's polls win in the Bagan Datoh federal seat contest with video evidence of him allegedly giving bribes for votes, party leaders said today.

The three videos, also available on the internet, purportedly shows the Home Minister admitting to giving 23,000 people RM100 and 5kgs of rice each by "masking" them as campaign workers for the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition.

The clips are the evidence for the two election petitions filed to challenge the Bagan Datoh vote result that saw Zahid edging PKR's Madhi Hassan by a slim majority of 2,108 majority.

"Zahid thinks he's smart. He claims he is giving the bribe to party workers. The votes that he got was only 17,000 but he admitted to giving it to 23,000 party workers so that means 6,000 of the party workers did not vote for him.

"He was actually looking for a loophole in the law to give the bribes... everyone knows it is impossible for you to have 23,000 campaign workers," PKR strategic director Rafizi Ramli told a press conference at the party's headquarters here.

In one of the videos made available on popular video-sharing site YouTube, Ahmad Zahid was seen "appointing" voters he deemed as "hardcore BN" supporters in a hall during the Election 2013 campaign period in April.

While addressing a crowd, the Umno vice-president had said: "There's no need to buy rice. You don't have to buy rice, BN will give because you are party workers".

In another video, Ahmad Zahid was again seen talking about the matter, this time denying that the act of giving money and rice to voters was a form of bribery.

"They say we are giving money and rice and that is bribery. We give it because we have appointed them as the machinery, because they are BN machinery. Is that bribery?" he said.

According to Edmund Bon, the lawyer leading the court action against the home minister, the act was clearly a form of corruption and a violation of the Election Act.

"This is already a solid evidence to nullify the result," Bon told the same press conference.

On the second petition which was filed by a voter named Azmi Sulaiman, the petitioner aims to disqualify the result by citing Section 19 and 21 of the Election Act which prohibits a candidate from employing a certain number of campaign workers.

Ahmad Zahid's admission that the party had appointed 23,000 workers for the campaign had allegedly violated the two laws.

Both the petitions were filed at the Ipoh High Court yesterday and are among the 35 others filed by the opposition in a bid to nullify the polls results in 24 federal and 10 state seats.

Its leaders, however, had conceded that the massive bid, the biggest in Malaysia's polls history, will likely be futile.

"Generally, the law is against the petitioner," said Bon, adding that many of the petitions are unlikely to make it to full trial since they will be rejected on technical grounds.

PR leaders claimed that the Election 2013 results were rigged to favour the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition.

Next to its plans to drag the EC to court in what is likely to be the biggest civil action mounted against the polls regulator in Malaysian history, the bloc had also launched the "Black 505" movement and held several massive rallies nationwide to step up pressure for polls reform.

Immediately after the May 5 polls, PKR's #siasatPRU13 team made a series of exposes on what it claimed was proof of polls fraud as the opposition moved to pressure Putrajaya to implement polls reform, starting with the complete overhaul of the EC.

The EC has denied the allegation.

Rafizi also said PR will continue with its protests until all the conditions for polls reform are met despite growing calls for the opposition bloc to "move forward" and fight through other channels.

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