

Pakatan wants vote-buying probe in Penang reopened, claims MACC "closing both eyes"

Malaysian Insider

July 11 , 2013

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has been urged to reopen its investigations into allegations of vote buying in Penang during the 13th General Election.

The call from Pakatan Rakyat Members of Parliament came after Penang MACC director Samarajoo Manikam said that the probe had ceased as the offence could not be proven.

Calling the MACC's decision unacceptable, PKR's Sim Tze Tzin said that the public had high hopes on the enforcement agency after it had received an allocation of RM276 million in the last budget, prior to GE13.

"But right after the election, such a big corruption case was closed," fz.com reported Sim as telling a press conference at the Parliament lobby yesterday along with Kasthuriraani Patto (DAP-Batu Kawan) and Mansor Othman (PKR-Nibong Tebal).

On the allegations, the Bayan Baru MP claimed that thousands of voters from Penang had received cash and "lucky bonus" vouchers when they had attended 1Malaysia dinners.

"They had experienced vote buying firsthand and will be witnesses. If MACC says that they don't have strong enough evidence then they are closing both eyes towards a crime," he said.

Pakatan candidates have lodged seven reports on vote buying in the state to the police, Election Commission and the MACC.

The issue came to light in May after Datuk Abdul Halim Hussain, who lost the Teluk Bahang state seat to Barisan Nasional's (BN) Datuk Shah Headan Ayoob Hussain Shah by 801 votes, reported that people were seen queuing up in front of a shop in Sungai Dua to redeem vouchers they were allegedly given before May 5.

The vouchers, they were told, could be cashed if the BN candidate won in their constituency. - July 11, 2013.

Hakcipta © 2013 The Malaysian Insider

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/pakatan-want-vote-buying-probe-in-penang-reopened-claims-macc-closing-both-eyes/>