

**Klias BN Candidate Would Have Won If PKR Did Not Bribe Voters, Election Court Told
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KOTA KINABALU, Oct 1 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional (BN) candidate for the Klias state seat in the 13th General Election told the Election Court here Tuesday that he would have won if Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) had not practised bribery to gain more votes.

Isnin Aliasnih said PKR's Datuk Seri Lajim Ukin won with a majority of a mere 179 votes due to the promise of money he made if Klias' 12,722 registered voters elected Lajim as their victor in the May 5 election.

Isnin told the court, presided by judge Datuk Yew Jen Kie, that he had been informed by registered voters in the constituency that PKR had distributed envelopes each containing RM50 cash and a coupon which could be reimbursed for RM100 cash per coupon if Lajim won.

He concluded that the distribution of the envelopes was Lajim's modus operandi to obtain votes in order for him to win the election.

He also said the coupon, which bore the PKR logo and Lajim's name, who had also contested for the Beaufort parliamentary seat, and the name of PKR's candidate for the Kuala Penyu state seat Datuk John Ghani, did not state the name and address of its printer and publisher, which contravened Section 11(1)(c) of the Election Offences Act 1954.

In his election petition, Isnin named Lajim, the State PKR chairman, who won the Klias seat, as the first respondent while returning officer for the Klias state seat Jupari @ Jupty Etok and the Election Commission (EC) as the second and third respondents respectively.

However, on Aug 5, Yew ordered the EC and the returning officer for the Klias state seat to be removed as respondents on grounds that the petitioner had failed to comply with provisions under the Election Offences Act.

Isnin filed the petition, claiming that there was alleged corruption and irregularities during the election campaign.

He was represented by lawyers Jaapar Esteban, Rizuan M Borhan, Saiful Azian Mokhtar and Muamar Julkarnain, while Lajim was represented by lawyers Datuk Chau Chin Tang and Datuk Lawrence Thien.

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