

12 PKR Branch Elections In Selangor Suspended

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SHAH ALAM, May 11 (Bernama) -- Twelve of 22 Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR)'s branch elections in Selangor were suspended today amidst claims of fraud and lack of transparency.

Included in the list was Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim's branch, Kuala Selangor.

The other branches were Sabak Bernam, Klang, Kota Raja, Shah Alam, Kapar, Sungai Besar, Subang, Hulu Langat, Hulu Selangor, Sepang and Selayang.

The Kuala Selangor election was suspended by the PKR election officer at 1.45 pm after several party members protested over the way the voting process was conducted as well as claims candidates had marked ballot papers meant for voters.

The Kota Raja branch election was almost over when a group of men seized a ballot box and threw it on the floor at the MPK Sports Complex hall.

Party central selection committee representative, Nadarajan K. Raju suspended the election at 4.30 pm when the ballot box was found to be broken.

The Klang branch election was suspended when three candidates, P. Krishnasamy, Zudin Asrmad and Arahyah Ibrahim jointly boycotted it.

They claimed that there was no transparency and that irresponsible parties had attempted to sabotage the process by switching the candidates' list given to the voters.

The three candidates called for the suspension before it was officially announced by the selection committee representative at 2.30 pm.

Meanwhile, the Sabak Bernam and Sungai Besar branch elections were suspended at 1 pm and 3 pm following claims by party members of fraud and non transparency.

Elections at the Subang, Sepang, Selayang, Hulu Selangor, Kapar and Hulu Langat branches were also suspended over the same reasons.

The election at the Shah Alam branch was suspended at 6 pm over defective voting process and tampered ballot papers.

Supporters of candidates and voters expressed their dissatisfaction following claims that some members had voted twice and candidates had campaigned at unauthorised areas.

Earlier, the candidate for the Shah Alam branch, Rodziah Ismail was reported to have expressed her dissatisfaction over claims that supporters of her opponent Yaakop Sapari had campaigned in the unauthorised areas and solicited votes.

Meanwhile, a fracas broke out five minutes before the Kuala Langat branch election ended at 5 pm when a group of men believed to be party members created a disturbance in anger over the voting process held at the Dewan Wawasan Batu 9, Telok Panglima Garang.

They claimed that the balloting process was not transparent and proceeded to break several of the seven ballot boxes at the centre.

They also tried to assault Kuala Langat member of parliament Abdullah Sani Abdul Hamid who was also a candidate, as well as several officers.

However, the election was not suspended and all the ballot boxes were sent to the PKR headquarters in Tropicana, Petaling Jaya for the counting process.

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