

## **Kuala Selangor PKR Division Election Called Off**

**Bernama**

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KUALA SELANGOR, May 11 (Bernama) -- The hotly-contested Kuala Selangor Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) division election ended with a whimper Sunday, as it was called off indefinitely due to allegations of irregularities in the voting process.

The election process, which started about 8.30am, was called off at 1.45pm after several party members raised objections over the manner in which the election was conducted, including allegations that the 'wakil calon' (representatives of the candidates) marked the ballot papers, instead of the voters themselves.

The announcement regarding the cancellation of the voting process was made by Arshad Abu Bakar - the candidate contesting for the post of Kuala Selangor PKR division deputy chief - at the polling centre in Bestari Jaya here.

Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim is taking on former Kapar member of parliament S. Manikavasagam in a straight fight for the Kuala Selangor division chief post.

According to V. Bobinath, a candidate for the division's youth vice-chief post, his name was not in the candidate's list at the polling centre.

"I am puzzled as during nomination day, my name was there but today, my name had mysteriously disappeared," he said when met by reporters.

In an immediate reaction to the cancellation of the divisional voting, Abdul Khalid apologised to PKR members over the failure of PKR's election process.

He tweeted that PKR needed total transformation, following various allegations of sabotage and non-transparent handling of the election.

Earlier, Abdul Khalid denied allegations of vote-buying as claimed by Manikavasagam.

Manikavasagam had claimed that he had audio recordings showing Abdul

Khalid, through his officer, paying up to RM50 to buy votes.

"I have evidence of the audio recording (on money politics) and will upload it soon. I have received complaints that party voters were bribed with RM30 to vote for candidates contesting for national posts and RM20 for the Kuala Selangor division chief post," said Manikavasagam.

Meanwhile in SABAK BERNAM, the Sabak Bernam PKR branch elections turned chaotic when supporters of its candidates argued heatedly and hurled insults at one another, almost breaking into fist-cuffs.

This happened at the Sabak Bernam mini-convention centre here after the Central Elections Committee decided to cancel the elections at 1pm and postponed it indefinitely.

The decision was made after three of the four candidates for the post of Sabak Bernam branch head were dissatisfied over allegations of cheating in the elections.

In the melee, a man, believed to be a supporter of one of the candidates, tried to hit another supporter with a piece of wood but the situation was brought under control by onlookers and the wood seized by policemen on duty there.

The women were no exception, either, when an elections officer and a PKR member resorted to pulling each other's clothes.

However, although they were separated, the women continued showing vulgar signs signs to each other, while spitting on the ground.

Speaking to reporters, former law lecturer at Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Dr Abdul Aziz Bari, who was a contender for the post of branch head, alleged there were candidates who remained in the counting hall and were seen trying to influence the voters.

"The candidates tried to assist disabled and illiterate party members. I, together with two other candidates felt this should not have happened so we filed a complaint with the elections officer," he said.

Abdul Aziz, who was PKR candidate in Sabak Bernama during the 13th General Election, believed the chaos occurred due to a weakness in the new voting

system introduced by PKR where the elections officer did not know the candidates.

The elections for the post of branch head saw Abdul Aziz challenged by three other candidates - Sabak Bernam branch deputy head, Abdul Talib Bujang, former Sabak Bernam branch secretary Anuar Mujhir and car rental company employee Abdul Kadir Rashid.

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