

Nurul Izzah complains of Ismail's dirty tricks
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Election Commission urged to investigate 'bribery and threats' by minister

BUKIT MERTAJAM: A federal minister has been accused of making threats to voters in Permatang Pauh and trying to bribe them with government projects.

Parti Keadilan Rakyat vice-president Nurul Izzah Anwar said Umno supreme council and federal agriculture minister Ismail Sabri Yaacob had flouted the Election Act with campaign statements during the by-election campaign.

She was reported to have urged the Election Commission to investigate Ismail Sabri for "bribery and threats".

On Friday Ismail was quoted as saying that applications for agricultural funds and projects in Permatang Pauh would not be approved by the federal government if Pakatan Rakyat won the by-election.

Ismail Sabri was reported to have said that only requests by the Barisan Nasional candidate Suhaimi Sabudin would be entertained.

"This is an agricultural area. I will surely approve if it is Suhaimi who is making the applications," he was reported to have said. "If it is Wan Azizah, she will not even get past my office lobby. There is no reason for me to see her. She is from the opposition."

Nurul Izzah said today: "We condemn such remarks as totally unacceptable and arrogant", describing the threats part of Barisan Nasional's dirty tactics.

Penang executive councillor Dr Afif Bahardin said such remarks by Ismail and other Barisan Nasional politicians were an insult to farmers who toiled on the land. "Ismail has insulted the dignity of farmers, especially the padi farmers, by threatening them not to vote for PKR," he said.

Afif said the Penang state government, run by Pakatan Rakyat, did not discriminate when handing out allocations to farmers. "Whether the farmers are from Umno, PAS or PKR, we would still provide allocation to them if they need it," he said. Arif is the councillor for agriculture.

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