

Two-thirds rule may thwart Pakatan's plans
Malaysiakini.com
January 3, 2011

Selangor Menteri Besar Khalid Ibrahim's plans to amend laws over the appointment of the state secretary might fail as Pakatan Rakyat does not control two-thirds control of the state legislative assembly.

Currently, Pakatan has 35 seats. It needs the support of at least 38 state assemblypersons in order to amend the state constitution.

Plans to amend the law was revealed by Khalid earlier today to "empower the state" in the selection of the state secretary, which is currently controlled by the federal Public Service Commission.

Khalid said that the state will be studying this over the next two or three weeks. He adds that royal consent is also required before the emergency sitting can be convened.

Commenting on this, Selangor exco member Dr Xavier Jeyakumar said that although Pakatan might not succeed in amending the law, a debate on the issue was still vital.

"What we want is a debate on the matter. Whether it will be passed is a different question," he said.

He added that the amendment will not be retrospective and will not affect Khusrin Munawi's appointment as state secretary.

Khair: Federal Constitution supreme

Xavier said that the state also has the option of tabling a no-confidence motion against Khusrin.

The state government has protested Khusrin's appointment due to several controversial decisions made as Selangor Islamic Religious Department (Jais) head.

However, the chief secretary to the federal government argued that the PSC's decision to appoint Khusrin was lawful and the state had no say in the matter.

Former Selangor Menteri Besar Dr Mohd Khir Toyo said that the two-thirds requirement will definitely be a stumbling block for Pakatan.

"Besides, whatever the amendments, the state constitution cannot overrule the federal constitution," he said.

State legislative assembly speaker Teng Chang Khim declined comment.

