

Chronology of how SS sidestepped MB
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The chronology of events leading to the appointment of Selangor state secretary Mohd Khusrin Munawi indicates that former state secretary Ramli Mahmud had made moves behind Menteri Besar Abdul Khalid Ibrahim's back.

According to the chronology provided by Selangor palace today, the Public Service Department informed Ramli of its three candidates for the state secretary's post in a letter dated Dec 3, as Ramli's term was ending in March 2011.

Upon receipt of the letter, Ramli the same day forwarded the three names to Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah's private secretary Mohamed Munir Bani, for the ruler's consent.

On Dec 10, Munir sent a letter to Ramli (left), who this morning was appointed to the royal council, stating that the sultan had chosen Khusrin for the post.

Yesterday, chief secretary to the federal government Sidek Hassan noted that unlike what Khalid claimed, the correspondence indicated that due consultation was made with the state government.

However, Sidek does not state anywhere in his prepared statement that Ramli had briefed the menteri besar about the matter.

Nor did Sidek refer to any correspondence between Ramli and the PSD about the panel interviews carried out by the Selangor government to shortlist its own candidates.

State acted in line with Civil Service Practice

Khalid's political secretary Faekah Husin told the media that the state had convened the panel on Nov 27, in line with the Civil Service Practice Notes.

It had interviewed six out of the eight candidates suggested by Ramli's department and the human resources department, including Khusrin.

On Dec 17, the state presented its shortlisted candidates to the Selangor sultan through a letter from the MB.

Four days later, the palace, by way of a letter dated Dec 10, informed the MB that the sultan had already consented to the appointment of Khusrin as state secretary.

Khusrin's appointment was announced by Sidek on Dec 27, after which the MB wrote to the sultan, seeking an audience on the matter.

The sultan was, however, on leave and Khalid was granted an audience when the ruler returned on Jan 3, which was also Khusrin's first day as state secretary.

On the same day, Khalid announced that the sultan agreed that he had no power to accept or reject an appointment, but this was later refuted by the palace.

MP: Ex-SS acted unprofessionally

Khalid also announced the state's intention to call a state assembly meeting to amend the Selangor constitution in order to return the power to appoint the state secretary, state financial officer and state legal adviser to the state and the sultan.

Meanwhile, Shah Alam parliamentarian Khalid Samad said Ramli had "stabbed the MB in the back" and that the former state secretary had acted "unprofessionally".

"He withheld information about his correspondence with the palace on Dec 3 and Dec 10... Ramli went behind the MB's back, he sent the letter to the palace saying that Khusrin was the first-ranked candidate, short-circuiting the state's selection process.

"If you want to consider this a betrayal, that is up to you to interpret," he said.

He also laid the blame on BN, saying that this was the coalition's ploy to pit the state government against the palace.

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