

PKR urges Latheefa to reconsider MBPJ quit decision

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By S Pathmawathy

Selangor PKR leadership council member Dr Xavier Jayakumar has urged former Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) councillor Latheefa Koya to reconsider her decision to resign.

Xavier told reporters today a letter on the matter would be sent to Latheefa.

"We have referred the case to the leadership council to contact Latheefa... because she is PKR's representative on MBPJ," he said.

"It is the responsibility of the leadership council. Selangor PKR will call Latheefa (to retract her resignation)," Xavier added.

Latheefa, who is a member of PKR's political bureau, resigned as MBPJ councillor on Monday.

She said speculation about her being sacked as a councillor had become "a matter of public knowledge and speculation" and so her role as councillor was "untenable".

She had tendered her resignation following public speculation that the state would sack her after she privately raised concerns over housing for the poor with Selangor Menteri Besar Abdul Khalid Ibrahim and other party leaders.

According to Selangor and Federal Territories Community Association (Permas) president Tan Jo Hann, this was after Permas complained of having been barred from protesting on the matter outside the state secretariat building on June 20.

The Selangor PKR leadership had also opposed the move and rebuked speculation about Latheefa's sacking.

"We (would) like to advise the Selangor government to be more open to criticism, especially when done confidentially as in this case.

"We express our regret that the state has taken the issue into its own hands with no consultation with the Selangor party leadership on this matter," said Ampang PKR MP Zuraida Kamaruddin.

"She had been very instrumental in driving the new political culture in the party as well as the local government," she said