

PKR Youth backs Anwar for Kajang seat

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In an interesting twist to developments in the leadership of Selangor, PKR Youth has said it will only support party de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim as a candidate in the impending Kajang by-election.

The statement, issued by PKR Youth chief Shamsul Iskandar Md Akin (left), strengthens speculation of a superstar showdown leading to the ouster of Abdul Khalid Ibrahim as menteri besar.

"This creates room for PKR and Pakatan (Rakyat) to present a leader with more calibre and experience to lead Selangor as MB," Shamsul said in a statement issued late last night.

"Based on his experience leading the country, PKR Youth believes that Anwar is the best candidate to contest the Kajang seat and to be appointed MB.

"PKR Youth believes that this leadership will hasten the reform agenda in Selangor and bring national consensus to reality."

Rumours of a rift in PKR first emerged two weeks ago when Selangor PKR chief Azmin Ali was unexpectedly dropped from the board of Selangor State Development Corp (PKNS).

With Azmin, an aspiring MB by his side, Anwar had directly chided the Selangor state government for making a flawed decision to drop Azmin and urged a review.

He had then denied to confirm talk that he was out to change the MB, since it was only "rumours" then.

In the last six months, Khalid, who was elected to be MB for a second term after the 13th general election, had also come under criticism from within the party for his handling of underspending on development, water restructuring deals, pay hikes for executives and assemblypersons and hikes in business license.

There were widespread speculation that Azmin was gunning for the Selangor MB position but PKR secretary-general Saifuddin Nasution denied that any such proposal was made, although he conceded that 3-4 PKR leaders had voiced for

Khalid's resignation.

The tussle for the Selangor MB position reached another level yesterday when Kajang assemblyperson Lee Chin Cheh tendered his resignation. He said it was for the sake of the party's good.

This paved the way for Anwar to contest for a state assembly seat, a requirement for filling the Selangor MB position.

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