

PAS sees red, Youth mulls Kajang polls boycott

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Selangor PAS has spoken out against Anwar Ibrahim's bid to contest the Kajang state seat, especially if this is intended for him to take over the menteri besar.

The Youth wing said the by-election will be a waste of public money and that, if necessary, it will boycott PKR's bid to win the seat vacated abruptly yesterday by its assemblyperson Lee Chin Cheh.

"(We are) of the view that it is not proper to let go of a position without concrete reasons." said its head Syarhan Humaizi Abdul Halim (left) in a statement.

It's a tale of betraying public trust as Lee had received a big majority of 6,824 votes (in the 13th general election)."

He questioned why PKR is wasting public money on a by-election for the sake of solving an internal dispute.

"We remind PKR that Selangor is jointly managed by PAS, PKR and DAP. There's no rule stating that Selangor is PKR's alone.

"Therefore such an action overshadows political ties within Pakatan Rakyat and gives a negative image to the people."

Syarhan referred to a call by the wing's election director, Mohd Sany Hamzan, who has urged PKR to give a full written account of this "political play".

"If PKR fails to do so, we will instruct our party machinery to boycott the Kajang by-election campaign, if the candidate comes from PKR," he added.

PAS central committee member Nasruddin Hassan (right), in a Facebook posting, said the action of relinquishing the post as an assemblyperson after a mandate has been given is akin to treason of the trust given.

"Although there is no party hopping - the action is not wise. This game is seen as 'mengkangkungkan' rakyat (making the people stupid) as they are now faced with higher cost of living, and now money and time would be spent on the Kajang by-election.

"We have had roadshows on the Goods and Services Tax, and to mobilise the anti-price hike protests, and it is as if such work has come to naught. The momentum is lost as the rakyat will feel that as they struggle with the hikes, you (politicians) are now bickering among yourselves for positions," he said.

Nasruddin said what makes the move leave a bad taste is that there was no consultation with the Pakatan Rakyat partners over this, and this goes against the consensus principle.

"The action is not only seen as betraying but also hurting the people. It is haram to act this way," the former PAS Youth chief said.

'PAS candidate for MB'

Selangor PAS, meanwhile, said it is watching with interest for seismic changes within PKR.

It will intervene and propose its own candidate for MB if there is indeed a bid to oust the incumbent, Abdul Khalid Ibrahim, as is being speculated.

"Why wouldn't we want our own candidate? PAS has the most seats in the state assembly," said state party secretary Mohd Khairuddin Othman in a separate statement.

"Selangor PAS asks members at all levels to remain calm and wait for directions from the party."

Mohd Khairuddin said Selangor PAS' preferred candidate for MB would include its chief commissioner Iskandar Abdul Samad.

"We will send his name for PAS central leaders to consider and it will then be up to them to decide."

However, he reaffirmed that the party will not rock Selangor but work toward bringing about stability.

PAS and DAP each hold 15 seats in the Selangor state assembly, compared to PKR's 14. BN has 12 seats.

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