

Mike knocks out MB in PKR division polls
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Selangor Menteri Besar Abdul Khalid Ibrahim has suffered a shock defeat in the Kuala Selangor PKR division chief contest, losing to former Kapar MP S Manickavasagam after months of intense battles that also involved allegations of money politics.

According to Hilman Idham, an aide of PKR deputy president Azmin Ali, Khalid (right) only clinched 515 votes to Manikavasagam's 701 votes.

The result might erode Khalid's support base in Kuala Selangor.

He stood for and won the Ijok state seat in the 2008 general election, but shifted to Port Klang in 2013 amid reports of unhappiness among the grassroots in Ijok and in Kuala Selangor.

This will also be a revival of sorts for Manikavasagam, who is popularly known as "Mike".

He was suspended from the party earlier this year for making money politics allegations against Khalid. His suspension has since been revoked.

Manikavasagam was Kapar MP from 2008 to 2013, and was in 2013 moved to contest the Bukit Melawati state seat, where he lost to the BN candidate by a narrow margin.

Criticism of Khalid has intensified

The result could also renew calls for Khalid to be replaced as MB.

PKR orchestrated the Kajang move earlier this year in an attempt to install their de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim as the next MB.

But the move fell apart when Anwar was convicted of sodomy at the Court of Appeal, resulting in him being disqualified as a candidate for the Kajang state seat.

Khalid, who initially was subjected to criticism from his rival Azmin Ali over the past few months, had come under increasingly vocal criticism from Pakatan representatives in the state.

DAP's Charles Santiago (left) has been critical of the state government's handling of its plan to extract unused mining water for public consumption.

Also, several other Pakatan representatives have grown increasingly unhappy with Khalid's

endorsement of the Kinrara-Damansara (Kidex) expressway in Petaling Jaya.

Earlier this year, Khalid and his state leadership were also seen as being slow to react on the issue of bibles seized by the Selangor Islamic Religious Department (Jais).

Khalid currently trails Azmin by more than 4,000 votes in the race for deputy president according to the last available official results.

The full and final results are expected to be announced after PKR finally completes its final series of branch and division elections this weekend.

However, the Kuala Selangor division polls seem to have given Khalid a glimmer of hope in catching up with Azmin, as he gained 517 votes from the division compared to Azmin's 440 votes.

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