

Anwar to step down as Selangor adviser?
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Speculation is rife that Anwar Ibrahim will quit his post as Selangor economic adviser once his wife and PKR president Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail becomes the new menteri besar.

As it is, his rivals have accused Anwar and his family of nepotism pertaining to positions in the party.

PKR strategist Rafizi Ramli (left in photo) is expected to replace Anwar for that position.

The Pandan MP and two other loyalists, PKR secretary-general Saifuddin Nasution Ismail and Sungai Petani MP Johari Abdul, will act as Azizah's advisers.

Anwar has summoned the party's MPs and state assemblypersons to a meeting at party HQ in Kuala Lumpur tonight, where he is expected to persuade the attendees to endorse his choice of MB to replace Khalid Ibrahim, who has helmed the state for six years.

Wan Azizah is expected to assume the post after the Aidilfitri celebrations at the end of the month or beginning of next month.

According to a party insider, Rafizi, Johari (right) and Saifuddin were also supportive of the Kajang Move, orchestrated to oust Khalid.

Anwar was supposed to contest in the forced Kajang by-election and eventually take over as menteri besar, but this was foiled when the Court of Appeal convicted and sentenced him to five years in prison.

This forced Wan Azizah to contest in the by-election.

Last week, there was also speculation that Khalid's nemesis and current deputy president Azmin Ali would be named as the new menteri besar.

However, Azmin, who is currently in Mecca, would most likely be passed for the MB post although his supporters attending the meeting tonight would try to lobby for him.

Responding to the speculation, PKR vice-president Tian Chua (left) denied that Anwar would be quitting the economic advisor's post.

"I deny it. There is no such thing," he told Malaysiakini.

He said Azizah, if she becomes menteri besar, would be assisted by more than three

persons.

Khalid to be one of advisers

Chua claimed that even Khalid, who remains as Port Klang assemblyperson, would be one of her advisers.

Asked about Wan Azizah's ability to lead Selangor, Chua asked: "Why, you doubt her ability... is it because she is a woman?"

"She is after all the PKR president. She will get our backing if she is MB," he added.

Meanwhile, Penang PKR Youth chief Dr Afif Bahardin (left) claimed that he was not aware of the speculation that Anwar would quit his Selangor advisor's post.

He said tonight's meeting would probably be about recent developments in Selangor, in the party and globally like the MH17 tragedy.

He added members were not informed about a specific agenda.

"We are yet to be told who is Selangor's new MB and will discuss the matter tonight, we were only told that there would be a smooth transition of power," the Penang exco member told Malaysiakini.

"Members are ready for change. However, the person to replace Khalid must be dynamic and capable, and someone everyone has confidence in," he added.

Afif said both Azizah and Azmin had the caliber to assume the menteri besar post.

As for Azmin, he noted that the Selangor PKR chief captured the state twice for Pakatan Rakyat.

"The second time Selangor obtained higher votes and much support of the voters.

"The MB post is really not about an individual, and is not exclusive to anyone, but must be filled by someone who can be accepted by the team.

"There are many capable leaders in PKR but it is up to Pakatan who will decide on the new MB based on consensus of all allies," he added.

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