

PKR cites 'integrity issues' to drop Khalid as MB
MalaysiaKini.com
Aug 4, 2014

PKR stepped up its push today for the replacement of Abdul Khalid Ibrahim as the Selangor menteri besar, raising suspicions on the integrity of the former corporate figure.

Party secretary-general Saifuddin Nasution charged that Khalid's integrity had "become doubtful" following his RM66 million out-of-court loan settlement with Bank Islam.

Since the settlement earlier this year, reported to be at a "much lower" figure than the actual amount, Saifuddin said, there have been a series of business transactions with a particular company, worth millions of ringgit, that Khalid has not properly explained.

"Two months after the loan settlement, there were a few developments that strengthened the suspicion, as these involved deals worth hundreds of millions of ringgit, which have profited the company," he told a press conference at the PKR headquarters in Petaling Jaya today.

Subsequently, Saifuddin claimed, Khalid also granted the same company a RM591 million affordable housing project in Selangor.

Malaysiakini is withholding the company's name pending a response from the Menteri Besar's Office.

Saifuddin said these issues would be outlined in a written document to be issued to the Pakatan Rakyat leadership tomorrow to explain why Khalid should be replaced as Selangor menteri besar.

'It follows meeting with PAS top guns'

He said the court document pertaining to the Bank Islam settlement as well as documents relating to Selangor's controversial water restructuring water agreement spearheaded by Khalid would also be included as part of the documents.

The move to come up with the written document to the Pakatan leadership followed his meeting last week with PAS spiritual leader Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat (left), PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu and vice presidents Husam Musa and Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man.

However, Saifuddin stressed that he was not suggesting that Khalid was a corrupt leader but simply that he had "problems of integrity" as the menteri besar.

"Aside from the problem of doubtful integrity, there are a few other issues.

"We have called him (Khalid) to explain, but have not received a satisfactory answer," he said.

Saifuddin said Khalid had ignored Pakatan's water committee and signed a heads of agreement on water restructuring with Putrajaya without consulting the panel comprising DAP's Tony Pua, PAS' Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad and PKR's Rafizi Ramli.

"Even though he agreed with the Pakatan leadership council (that the panel should be consulted), he operates as if the committee does not exist," he added.

Later today, Abdul Khalid denied the allegations concerning his integrity and challenged PKR to lodge a report against him with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission.

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