

PAS postpones pivotal meeting on MB

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The Selangor menteri besar crisis is set to drag on with PAS postponing its meeting to discuss the matter.

The meeting, which was initially set for Sunday, has been postponed to Aug 13.

This was confirmed by secretary-general Mustafa Ali, PAS' party organ Harakahdaily reported this evening.

The postponement comes after PKR's disciplinary committee issues a notice to Selangor Menteri Besar Abdul Khalid Ibrahim to attend an inquiry against him tomorrow.

If Khalid cannot attend tomorrow, committee chief Tan Kee Kwong said the inquiry can be postponed to Saturday.

Malaysiakini earlier reported that Aug 10 was D-Day for MB Abdul Khalid Ibrahim as both PAS and DAP had scheduled separate meetings to discuss PKR's proposal to replace him.

DAP said their meeting will still proceed this Sunday.

Khalid said whether or not he resigns depends on what Pakatan Rakyat decides.

The PAS central committee meeting, now to be held at the party's headquarters at 10am Wednesday, will be crucial since DAP had already given its support for a woman to replace Khalid, in obvious reference to PKR's choice Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

If PAS were to decide to back Khalid to continue as menteri besar, major problems will arise in the already unmitigated crisis.

A break-up in Pakatan Rakyat appeared possible, although Opposition Leader Anwar Ibrahim has insisted that PAS' resistance to remove Khalid will not tear the coalition apart.

Though forums held in the past two days saw speakers, ranging from political analysts to politicians, making it clear that Khalid has to go, high-ranking PAS leaders have expressed their support for the Selangor MB.

PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang had expressed his support for Khalid while PAS spiritual leader Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat has questioned the need to change the head of Selangor state government.

And with Nik Aziz, who yesterday reiterated that Khalid should not be replaced, making his stand clear, PAS may likely throw its considerable weight behind the beleaguered leader.

It has been suggested the conservative faction in the Islamic party is adamant that a woman cannot hold the MB's post.

Belligerent Khalid hopes for PAS backing

If PAS sides with Khalid against DAP and PKR, greater questions will be asked of the fate of the fledgling tripartite coalition.

PAS has 15 seats in the 56-seat state assembly as opposed to DAP, 15, and PKR, 14. The Umno opposition has 12 seats.

Khalid, who was issued a show-cause letter by PKR on two days ago for "blatantly defying the party's decision" seeking his resignation, has refused to answer to the charge as he claimed the notice was "faulty".

He also insisted that he was appointed according to the state constitution, and according to the constitution, he still holds the confidence of the majority of the state legislative assembly.

Whether he eventually steps down or not, he said, depends on the joint decision of the Pakatan Rakyat leadership council, which is expected to be made in the coming days.

Pakatan is said to hold a meeting on the night of Aug 10 but the meeting has yet to be confirmed.

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