

## **Drive to get all Pakatan reps to sign pledge**

**MalaysiaKini.com**

**Aug 9, 2014**

PKR is seeking all 43 Pakatan Rakyat elected state representatives in Selangor to pledge that they have lost confidence in Menteri Besar Abdul Khalid Ibrahim's leadership.

The move spearheaded by Selangor PKR is aimed at ousting Khalid, who has been adamant in holding on to his post, said Selayang MP and PKR treasurer William Leong.

All PKR assemblypersons in Selangor have been instructed to sign a statutory declaration swearing that they have lost confidence in Khalid and will back Kajang assemblyperson Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail as the new MB.

"This was announced by Selangor PKR deputy chief Zuraida Kamaruddin when she chaired a meeting (two days ago)," said the lawyer, who drafted the statutory declaration with the help of a few party colleagues.

In addition to the PKR assemblypersons, he said the party wants its two allies in the Pakatan coalition to do likewise by getting its elected state representatives to ink the pledge.

This could be seen as a preliminary move to avoid a potential deadlock should there be a vote of no confidence against Khalid in the state assembly's floor.

DAP and PKR together have 28 seats (not including Khalid), while a possible combination of PAS (15 seats), Umno (12) as well as Khalid's own vote, will also bring their tally to 28.

It was reported that at least 12 out of 14 PKR assemblypersons have received a copy of the statutory declaration, but Leong said he hasn't kept track on how many have signed the pledge.

"Conventionally, if a prime minister or chief minister fails to secure the majority support (of the House), they will have to step down," he said when asked whether such pledges are legally binding.

"This happened to Margaret Thatcher (in the United Kingdom) and Kevin Rudd (in Australia). This happened also to our former prime minister, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi," he said, adding that this is in keeping with the state constitution which states the MB must have the support of the majority in the assembly.

'PAS may think twice'

A similar situation ended Pakatan's rule in Perak in 2009, where BN reclaimed the state when then-MB Mohammad Nizar Jamaluddin lost the support of the majority following the defection of three assemblypersons.

Meanwhile, a source close to state leadership said the move was aimed at putting pressure on PAS to line up behind Wan Azizah, as the Islamic party believes some state representatives in Selangor PKR may still back Khalid.

He is however skeptical that PAS will work with Umno to keep Khalid as MB, as both parties compete mostly in the same Malay-majority seats.

He believes that PAS will have much more to lose if it chooses to align itself with Umno, as its support appears to be waning in the Malay heartland.

A number of top PAS leaders and its influential Syura Council have supported Khalid. A final decision will be made at a party meeting to be held on Aug 17.

The state exco member is not convinced that the state party chief Azmin Ali (second from left) - who has harboured the ambition to be Selangor MB - will sign the pledge to back Wan Azizah.

Meanwhile, DAP said it was in the dark over PKR's latest move to oust Khalid.

When contacted, Selangor DAP chief Tony Pua said the party was unaware of such a signature campaign and that PKR has yet to inform the party about the matter.

"If PKR bring this up, we will consider it. We will consider whatever measure which can solve the problem," said the Petaling Jaya Utara parliamentarian.

Copyright © 1999-2012 Mkini Dotcom Sdn. Bhd  
Sourcehttp: <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/271031>