

PKR trains guns on Khalid in rally

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Hours after the sacking of Selangor Menteri Besar Abdul Khalid Ibrahim's from PKR, party leaders have gone on a blitz against their former ally.

As PKR top guns took the stand before some 400 mostly party supporters in Shah Alam last night, the topic was not the usual BN bashing that comes with such rallies.

Instead, it revolved around Abdul Khalid's "problems" since he became menteri besar in 2008 and why he needed to be replaced.

The PKR leaders touched on Abdul Khalid's alleged failure to address simple administrative matters from roads to trash, to his alleged links and close relationships with leaders from arch-rival Umno.

Some audience reacted with shock while other nodded in agreement as PKR Wanita chief Zuraida Kamaurddin, who is also Ampang MP, turned on the heat about his supposed failures in her constituency.

Zuraida (left) charged that Abdul Khalid was arrogant and had neglected the party on various issues.

She also took aim at Abdul Khalid's defiance of the party's instructions.

"We did not choose any 'Ah Chong' or 'Ane' to become (party) president. This is our party president but even so he (Abdul Khalid) refused to listen," she said.

PKR, which has found it increasingly difficult to work with Khalid, had instructed him to resign to be replaced with PKR president Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

Party-less menteri besar

Following his refusal, the PKR disciplinary board had summoned him to a hearing to explain five matters.

They are the Selangor water restructuring plan, the menteri besar's allowance hike, the business license hike, the Kinrara-Damansara Expressway (Kidex) and Khalid's own out-of-court settlement of a RM66 million loan with Bank Islam.

However, Abdul Khalid did not turn up for the hearing on Friday and instead delivered a letter asking for more details and a postponement.

The committee subsequently moved to sack him yesterday, making him a party-less menteri besar.

Zuraida said Abdul Khalid should form his own party if he insisted on staying on as menteri besar and reminded that he was in the position because of PKR and Pakatan Rakyat.

"I am the Ampang MP, if my party did not allow me to contest in Ampang, would I have become a YB (Yang terhormat) in Ampang?"

"If we don't want to follow our party, then make your own party and become menteri besar," she said.

Zuraida then added, "but can they win?" to which the crowd responded with a loud "No!"

Meanwhile, PKR secretary-general Saifuddin Nasution Ismail (left) and PKR strategies director Rafizi Ramli repeated that Abdul Khalid's out-of-court RM66 million loan settlement with Bank Islam as a reason why he needed to be replaced.

Prior to this, Saifuddin had charged that the settlement was suspicious and linked the matter to subsequent projects granted to a particular company just months later.

Anwar absent

However the crowd appeared slightly disappointed as PKR de facto leader who was expected to show up did not make an appearance.

When met after the rally, Saifuddin said Anwar was meeting "someone very important".

Also present was Wan Azizah, who was the only leader who did not speak about Abdul Khalid when she took the stage.

Instead, Wan Azizah, who is proposed to replace Abdul Khalid, spoke of her life's story when her husband, Anwar was jailed at the beginning of the reformasi movement.

"I do not want to prolong the menteri besar issue, let Saifuddin and Rafizi do the explanations.

"I came here tonight to share about my life and our suffering without my husband," she said.

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