

## **Kelantan MB denies inviting Khalid to join PAS**

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The Kelantan menteri besar has denied a news report that he has invited expelled PKR leader Abdul Khalid Ibrahim to join PAS.

"The news report 'PAS' doors open to Khalid, says Kelantan MB' (reported by The Star yesterday) is not at all accurate," read a statement from MB Ahmad Yakob's press secretary late last night.

It said the quote reported in the said article ('It is up to him (Khalid) to join PAS now that he is no longer a PKR member after Saturday') is "totally untrue".

Ahmad Yakob (right) only said, "We cannot comment on that, that's his prerogative," when asked by reporters yesterday afternoon, the MB's office explained.

The MB only called on everyone including PAS members to stay calm and wait for the meeting on August 17 in order to maintain the "best possible scenario" in the Selangor MB crisis, it said.

PKR terminated Khalid's party membership on Saturday after its disciplinary committee meeting, saying the decision was based primarily on the latter's refusal to abide by the party's decision to replace him with party president Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

The committee said Khalid's refusal to abide by party and Pakatan decisions were central to his expulsion.

They cited his refusal to abide by party decisions to put off the Langat 2 water treatment plant, the menteri besar's allowance hike, the business license hike and the Kinrara-Damansara Expressway (Kidex), as well as his refusal to provide a thorough explanation of his out-of-court settlement of a RM66 million loan with Bank Islam.

The statement, released by the MB's press secretary Mohd Asri Mat Daud, also refuted a report in TV3 yesterday that the Ulama wing in PAS, which the MB heads, has discussed the sacking of Khalid in a meeting.

"What was stated is that the matter will be discussed in the PAS central committee meeting and that the syura council has discussed this matter before," he said.

Ahmad Yakob also said that the crisis for the Selangor MB post was an "exercise" that builds "political maturity".

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