

Consider Azmin as Selangor MB, Penang BN tells PKR
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Penang BN wants PKR to consider the party's deputy president Azmin Ali as the replacement for its sacked Selangor Menteri Besar Abdul Khalid Ibrahim.

PKR should have considered a candidate other than the wife of its de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim for the post of Selangor menteri besar, so as to escape charges of nepotism, state BN chief Teng Chang Yeow said today.

Teng said just because Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail is PKR president - since 1999 when the party was formed - it does not mean that she is capable of handling the post.

He proposed that Anwar should have considered Azmin, his long time political aide, loyalist and supporter, for the post.

"Azmin has been fighting the battle with Anwar since the very beginning of his reformasi journey, after Anwar was sacked as deputy prime minister in 1998," Teng recalled.

He said picking Azmin would have been better as the Gombak MP appeared to be more qualified and capable to handle the post, especially politically.

"Azmin's supporters nominated him, too, for the post, but Anwar is not interested to consider him," Teng told Malaysiakini.

"Considering a person other than his wife would also help him avoid allegations of nepotism, which it clearly is now, since Anwar did not consider anyone else for the post," he added.

'Anwar should not have chaired the meeting'

Told that it was former PKR deputy president Senator Syed Husin Ali who said he proposed Wan Azizah for the post, Teng said Anwar should have not chaired the meeting that picked Khalid's replacement.

"Anwar should have excused himself from the meeting and let the other members decide, but he was there and chaired the meeting as well. So, how to run away from charges of nepotism?" Teng asked.

It is learnt that the Selangor ruler has expressed his non-acceptance of Wan Azizah as the new MB, and has snubbed her request to meet him at the palace.

While PAS is in favour of retaining Khalid as menteri besar, DAP has expressed it's full backing for the Wan Azizah, the Kajang assemblyperson who won her seat in a by-election in March.

She was to replace Khalid after the Aidil Fitri celebration, but Khalid has rejected the party instruction to him to resign as menteri besar.

'Guan Eng has no courage to criticise Anwar'

Khalid was subsequently sacked from PKR last Saturday, and has in turn sacked five of his state executive councillors from DAP and PKR, who refused to meet him individually yesterday to discuss how to run the state government.

Teng (right) said DAP secretary-general and Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng was backing Wan Azizah as the new Selangor menteri besar because he had no courage to criticise Anwar on the matter.

This is because Lim himself is a "political product of nepotism" within DAP, he said.

Nevertheless, Teng said the Selangor crisis began with an internal power struggle within PKR.

"There are no words to describe the way it was handled by so called senior seasoned politicians against a political novice," he said.

"Those who have faith in these senior seasoned politicians, whose aim is to govern Putrajaya, should think whether they should support them again," Teng added.

Selangor crisis today

10am: PAS exco members say they will resign if Umno assemblypersons are appointed onto the exco.

10.19am: Sacked exco members from PKR and DAP arrive at work as usual.

10.37am: Law expert Abdul Aziz Bari contradicts another expert Gurdial Singh Nijar, by saying that the sacking of 5 exco members is lawful.

10.48am: PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu urges party to side with Pakatan against MB Khalid.

12.27pm: PAS calls on PKR to name a new MB candidate, after the palace rejects Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail's request for an audience.

12.46pm: Sacked exco members are told to vacate their offices

1.48pm: MB Khalid says exco member from PKR, Rodziah Ismail, who is overseas, is not sacked as she may still support MB Khalid.

3.33pm: MB Khalid says he is not appointing new exco members from Umno, for now.

4pm: PAS MP Khalid Samad says while waiting for PAS' decision, the MB has 'enough rope to hang himself'.

5pm: MB issues legal letter to PKR secretary-general demanding apology for the 'corruption dossier'.

11.36pm: Rodziah says she does not support Khalid and will resign from the exco.

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