

PAS to discuss 'Azizah for MB' tonight

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PAS political bureau will discuss several hot topics regarding the Selangor menteri besar crisis, including whether Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail is capable to replace incumbent Abdul Khalid Ibrahim who had been sacked by PKR on Saturday.

Besides this, the Islamic party will also discuss the party's stand on Khalid and study alternative candidates besides the PKR president.

The bureau will also discuss if PAS should leave Pakatan Rakyat and the recent developments of its two assemblypersons who openly support Wan Azizah earlier today.

Sources told Malaysiakini that tonight's meeting is meant to come up with a plan before it is tabled before the party's central committee meeting, expected on Sunday.

"(A decision by the bureau) is not considered as final.

"It is directed to lay out the party's plan for the central committee meeting," said a party source.

The bureau's meeting at the PAS headquarters in Kuala Lumpur is expected to be chaired by party president Abdul Hadi Awang or his deputy Mohamad Sabu at 9pm tonight.

Wan Azizah an inept leader?

Political observers see a possible clash between the pro-ulama and Erdogan factions with both sides said to be of equal strength in terms of numbers.

Those expected at the meeting include Mohamad, secretary-general Mustafa Ali, Nasrudin Hassan, Nik Abduh Nik Aziz, Hanipa Maidin and the three vice-presidents Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man, Salahuddin Ayub and Husam Musa.

The Erdogan group, whose leaning is towards Pakatan Rakyat, is likely to reject moves by the pro-ulama faction who is said to be intent for PAS to leave the opposition front.

Sources told Malaysiakini that there are increasing agitations by the pro-ulama faction to leave Pakatan, after the political bureau meeting was postponed twice before this.

The meeting tonight is seen as an extension of what had been suggested in the social media by PAS think-tank research director Zuhdi Marzuki (right) over various possible scenarios in Selangor.

"I see the proposal (to leave Pakatan) is illogical. It is a minority view or seen as a big joke.

"When the people of various races accepted Pakatan, we decide to reject it now," said the source.

Alternative candidate

Wan Azizah's capabilities to replace Khalid would also be hotly debated by the bureau, following recent developments which sees the palace rejecting her request for an audience with Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah.

Another matter hampering Wan Azizah is what is seen as her ineffective leadership as PKR president, which may provide further impetus to reject her.

Sources told Malaysiakini that following the palace refusal, Abdul Hadi had asked PKR de facto leader and her husband Anwar Ibrahim to consider other candidates when the duo met in Kuala Terengganu recently.

PAS is expected to discuss the other candidates besides Azizah and this includes PKR deputy president Azmin Ali.

"PAS have not discussed the notion of having its assemblyperson to be menteri besar.

"The party respects this is convention in Pakatan (that the Selangor MB should be from PKR). There is no issue of a menteri besar coming from PAS," the source said

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