Pakatan agrees Wan Azizah is sole MB candidate
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Pakatan Rakyat parties have agreed to nominate PKR president Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail as their sole choice as Selangor menteri besar today, after hours of inter-PKR and inter-Pakatan deliberations.

Earlier today, PAS nominated an additional name, her deputy Azmin Ali, to replace Menteri Besar Abdul Khalid Ibrahim.

But after over three hours of meeting at the Empire Hotel in Subang Jaya this evening, all three parties decided that Wan Azizah will be the only name suggested to Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah.

Top Pakatan leaders Anwar Ibrahim, Lim Kit Siang, Mohamad Sabu and Lim Guan Eng were present at the press conference.

PAS' support for either Wan Azizah or Azmin, declared this morning after its central committee meeting, meant that Khalid no longer has a majority in the state assembly.

The beleaguered menteri besar, who managed to hold on to his post despite his expulsion from PKR, will meet the state ruler once he returns from his overseas trip on Aug 27.

Azmin (on the right), who was also present at the press conference attended by a host of Pakatan leaders, said despite PAS' suggestion of his name, he stood by his party's decision that Wan Azizah will be the next menteri besar of Selangor.

"I thank PAS for the nomination, but I stand by what we have decided earlier in PKR and I stand by the statutory declaration (supporting Wan Azizah)," he said.

Met later, Azmin said the party "is more important" than the post of menteri besar.

PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim, in making the announcement, said Azmin had "stressed" that he stood by the party's decision.

PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu said he "accepted" PKR's decision to name Wan Azizah as Pakatan's choice of the new Selangor menteri besar.

This means that, after a long and uncertain period that has stretched for more than two weeks, PKR has finally got its coalition partners to agree to Wan Azizah's nomination as the next Selangor menteri besar.

If she is accepted by the Selangor ruler, she will become the first woman head of a state government in Malaysia.

Selangor crisis today

10.19am: An expected stand-off outside the PAS HQ fizzles after the Black Ribbon campaign cancels its protest as the PAS central committee convenes a long awaited meeting.

11.41am: Embattled Selangor MB Abdul Khalid Ibrahim's top strategist Faekah Husin likened PKR's accusation against her boss to a 'hatchet job' book on Anwar Ibrahim in 1998.

12.28pm: PAS central committee unanimously withdraws support for Khalid. The party nominates PKR president Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail and her deputy Azmin Ali as replacements.

12.58pm: Azmin is tight-lipped about his sudden nomination and says to pray for the best. PKR secretary-general Saifuddin Nasution insists that Wan Azizah is the sole candidate for MB as previously decided by PKR.

2pm: Khalid says he accepts PAS' decision and will seek an audience with the Selangor sultan on how to proceed.

2.08pm: PKR Youth publicly endorses PAS' proposal for Azmin to be the alternative candidate for menteri besar, just hours before PKR's leadership meeting.

3pm: Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin mocks Pakatan Rakyat, claiming PAS' additional nomination of Azmin was a veiled stab at Anwar and PKR.

6pm: Sources tells Malaysiakini that PKR decided to stick with Wan Azizah over Azmin after more than two hours of deliberation by its leaders in Subang Jaya.

7.29pm: Pakatan, which held its meeting immediately after PKR's, confirms it will only propose Wan Azizah as menteri besar after discussing for around an hour.

8.24pm: Azmin says he will comply with PKR's decision to propose Wan Azizah as menteri besar and voices support for his boss despite his own nomination.

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