

Khalid may go to Budapest to meet sultan?

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Speculation is rife that Selangor Menteri Besar Abdul Khalid Ibrahim may head to Budapest, Hungary, to meet Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah after losing majority support in the state assembly.

A text message on this is being circulated among Pakatan Rakyat elected representatives.

The SMS also said that Khalid would seek a dissolution of the state assembly to pave the way for fresh polls.

"Got information last night that Khalid Ibrahim will convince DYMM Sultan to dissolve the state assembly.

"Maybe Khalid will go to Budapest to meet DYMM," read the message sighted by Malaysiakini.

The speculation was fueled further after Khalid abruptly cancelled his scheduled monthly meeting with state civil servants this morning.

The meeting was to start at 8am and the media was only informed about the cancellation at 7.44am via email.

However, Khalid's press secretary Arfa'eza Abdul Aziz dismissed the speculation.

She told Malaysiakini Khalid would continue as menteri besar until the sultan returns from his overseas trip on Aug 27.

Palace confirms Budapest request

However later today the palace confirmed that Khalid did indeed make a request for an audience with the ruler abroad.

However the sultan turned down his request.

Yesterday, PAS joined DAP and PKR in formally withdrawing its support for Khalid.

This has left Khalid with only Umno's support, totalling 13 votes including his own in the 56-member state assembly.

Following PAS' decision, Pakatan last night decided that all its 43 state assemblypersons

would back PKR president Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail as the new Selangor menteri besar.

However, Wan Azizah would still need to go through the last hurdle by obtaining the sultan's consent when he returns.

The state has been in limbo since Aug 9 after PKR sacked Khalid from the party for refusing to step down.

Following yesterday's development, Khalid said he would seek an audience with the sultan but did not specify when or whether he would tender his resignation or seek for fresh polls.

Prior to that, he said the sultan had advised him not to make any decision until the ruler returns.

Selangor crisis today

11.14am: PAS exco member Sallehen Mukhyi says no need for MB Khalid Ibrahim to quit now.

12.25pm: Khalid cancels attendance at morning function at the last minute, prompting speculation that he was going to Budapest to meet the sultan

1pm: PAS' Sallehen maintains sultan is against Wan Azizah Ismail as MB

1.53pm: PAS central committee member Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad says presiden Abdul Hadi Awang's absence at Pakatan meet 'not silent protest'

2:35pm: Sultan tells Khalid not to meet him overseas but wait for him to return on Aug 27

3.33pm: A group protests against Wan Azizah as MB, citing her gender, competence and origin

6.32pm: Law expert Aziz Bari says the palace is defying the constitution if it rejects Wan Azizah