

'PAS has good chance of getting MB post'

MalaysiaKini.com

Aug 21, 2014

The chances of a PAS assemblyperson becoming the next Selangor menteri besar are bright, according to Malay daily Sinar Harian.

That is, if Selangor ruler Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah rejects PKR president Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail or any other PKR candidate for the post.

In an analysis of the political imbroglio, the daily said besides PKR, PAS is the only other party in Pakatan Rakyat with Muslim candidates who can become menteri besar.

"Furthermore, PAS now holds 15 state seats and PKR only 13 (following the sacking of Abdul Khalid Ibrahim from the party).

"PAS also has good and experienced candidates for menteri besar as it has PAS Selangor chief Iskandar Abdul Samad (Chempaka assemblyperson and a state executive councillor), Dr Ahmad Yunus Hairi (state exco member), Sallehen Mukhyi (exco member) and Dr Halimah Ali (exco member)."

The report further states there certainly will be a crisis in Pakatan Rakyat should the sultan reject all the names from PKR. If this happens, only assemblyperson from PAS can be appointed.

'Better for Pakatan, palace, to resolve matter'

Sinar Harian also quoted Universiti Utara Malaysia professor Mohd Azizuddin Mohd Sani as saying it would be better for negotiations be done between the Pakatan assemblypersons and the palace in order to resolve the matter.

Mohd Azizuddin, who is dean of Government and International Studies at UUM, said it seemed that Pakatan was pushing the ruler by proposes only one name.

"It should table more than one name that it feels would garner the majority support of the assemblypersons," he said.

In a separate report, Sinar Harian quoted political analyst Professor Sivamurugan Pandian as saying that Iskandar (left) is qualified to replace Khalid should the sultan reject the PKR candidates.

Sivamurugan said if the palace rejects Wan Azizah, Iskandar is more than capable as he is a senior exco member and has wide experience.

But the question is, whether PKR and DAP can accept Wan Azizah's name being dropped, he asked.

"I doubt PKR can accept this," Sivamurugan said.

PAS has already stated, in expressing its support for Wan Azizah and her deputy Azmin Ali, that the Islamist party does not want the post of Selangor menteri besar.

Why drop Khalid, academician asks

The Star quoted National Council of Political Clusters head Prof Mohd Mustafa Ishak as saying the shoddy treatment of Khalid by Pakatan was disheartening.

This, Mustafa said, came despite Khalid having performed admirably in governing the state.

"Khalid has showed professionalism and maturity by putting aside differences and rivalry with BN for the benefit of Selangorians.

"This is the kind of federal-state relationship that we want," Mustafa said.

The daily also quoted a former Pakatan assemblyperson, who declined to be named, as saying that Khalid was successful in boosting the state's reserves to RM3 billion.

"He is not perfect but his minute imperfections are not reason enough to humiliate and torment him in this way," said the former assemblyperson.

Selangor crisis today

9.14am: DAP Youth leader says columnist Ridhuan Tee Abdullah must apologise for suggesting Selangor will be 'darul babi' if MB Khalid Ibrahim is removed

9:48am: PAS rep Saari Sungib says he signed the statutory declaration primarily to reject the incumbent MB, but not to support PKR president Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail as widely perceived

12pm: Sinar Harian speculates that PAS has a good chance of getting MB post, if the ruler rejects Wan Azizah or other PKR reps

12.39pm: PAS exco man Sallehen Mukhyi says president Abdul Hadi Awang didn't discuss PKR's Azmin Ali as MB, with sultan in July 31 meeting

2.55pm: MB crisis will hurt Pakatan in polls, but win expected, says DAP's Bukit Gasing rep

3.34pm: Selangor PAS reiterates that they are not interested in the MB post as it belongs to

PKR

4.29pm: MB's lawyer denies claim by his aide that his debt was settled via a Middle Eastern bank, PAS MP Khalid Samad says

5.15pm: Sources close to MB says dissolution of the assembly will be one of the options put forth to the sultan

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