

PAS snubs Anwar's plea, insists on two names

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PAS continues to snub Anwar Ibrahim by rejecting his plea and insisting that it will submit two names to the Selangor palace for the menteri besar's post.

Speaking to Malaysiakini, PAS secretary-general Mustafa Ali (right) said the Islamic party will abide by the ruler's decree.

"We must not be seen to be forcing the palace (by submitting one name)," he said, adding that it is not good in terms of Malay ethics.

In view of this, PAS will be nominating PKR president Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail and her deputy Azmin Ali as agreed at its central committee meeting on Aug 17.

Furthermore, he said by nominating Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, PAS is displaying sufficient respect to its Pakatan Rakyat ally.

"There is nothing wrong to send in more than one name. He (Azmin) is the deputy president, the next in line after Kak Wan, it's a natural choice even for PKR," he said, despite Azmin giving his full backing to Wan Azizah's candidacy.

This afternoon, Anwar pleaded with PAS to adhere to the Aug 17 Pakatan council's decision to only propose Wan Azizah for the post.

Before it was not public

On Tuesday, the sultan requested Pakatan parties to submit "two or more names", with the deadline set for next Wednesday.

However, PKR and DAP, citing convention, disclosed that only Wan Azizah's (below) name will be submitted.

PAS' contradicting stands on the Selangor crisis has strained ties with its allies, with Selangor DAP leaders even mulling the need for the opposition bloc's continued existence.

Quizzed on the ruler having requested for more than one name after the last two general elections, Mustafa explained that the situation is different now.

"At that time, it was not an open matter. Now, it is revealed to the public. We must take into consideration public perception," he said.

He said the party would not like to be perceived as openly defying the ruler.

Selangor crisis today

8.28am: Gerakan urges PKR and DAP to not insist on Wan Azizah as it will only prolong the crisis and their goal to unseat Khalid has been reached.

12.58pm: Anwar urges PAS to respect the Pakatan leadership council's Aug 17 decision to only nominate Wan Azizah

1pm: Umno MP Shamsul Anuar Nasarah says the crisis is prolonged because Pakatan has no direction

2.46pm: Former MCA president Dr Chua Soi Lek says Anwar will control Selangor if Wan Azizah is MB

4.26pm: Law professors say acceding to the sultan's decree for multiple candidates will put the sultan in a tight spot as only Wan Azizah commands majority support.

5.30pm: PAS snubs Anwar's appeal that PAS submit only Wan Azizah's name, and will include PKR deputy president Azmin Ali's name, too

6.15pm: After PAS says it doesn't want to force the sultan to choose Wan Azizah, PKR points out that PAS didn't mind forcing the palace in 2008 and 2013

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