

Don't question our loyalty, PKR rep tells Rafizi

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Internal strife in PKR over the Selangor menteri besar crisis surfaced today after the party's Sri Muda assemblyperson Shuhaimi Shafiei openly criticised vice-president Rafizi Ramli for "questioning" the loyalty of PKR representatives to the party.

Rafizi earlier today called on all party representatives in Selangor to declare that they are not interested to be nominated for the post of menteri besar so that Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail remains the sole choice.

But Shuhaimi, in a strongly-worded statement, said Rafizi's public statement was akin to "insulting" PKR assemblypersons in the state and also "questioning" their loyalty.

He also "warned" Rafizi (right) to stop his "clumsy" way in issuing public statements.

"I think the time has come for the party president and our de facto leader to reprimand Rafizi's excessive methods," Shuhaimi said.

Shuhaimi said all the assemblypersons had already signed statutory declarations (SD) supporting Wan Azizah.

There is no need to decline MB nominations as they have not been officially nominated for the post, he argued.

Earlier today, PKR youth chief Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad in a statement declined PAS Youth chief Suhaizan Kaiat's suggestion that he be nominated as a potential Selangor menteri besar.

Rafizi 'arrogant'

Shuhaimi, who is the state PKR information chief, said Rafizi was worsening the existing gaps within PKR.

He also said that it was wholly unbecoming of a party vice-president to challenge the state representatives publicly, and that too via the mass media.

"Who is Rafizi to ask me to do this and that? Rafizi's statements in the past couple of months have worsened ties in Pakatan Rakyat, and now he is further aggravating the divide within PKR," he said.

"His actions have given a bad perception towards Pakatan Rakyat. People see him as someone who is forcing his opinions on others."

Shuhaimi also said Rafizi's attitude was reflective of someone who is "arrogant".

"I want to tell him, stop all of this. The Kajang Move has ended. Khalid Ibrahim has quit (as menteri besar).

"Give space for the Selangor palace to do their job according to state laws," he said.

Previously, Shuhaimi and Batu Caves assemblyperson Amirudin Shaari (on the left) claimed that a press conference held by Selangor PKR deputy chief Zuraida Kamaruddin at the height of the crisis was not accurate.

Shuhaimi and Amirudin said a statement signed to ask the central PKR leadership to consider Azmin as a possible MB candidate was agreed upon by the state PKR, but Zuraida read out a separate statement at the press conference endorsing Wan Azizah alone.

Shuhaimi is seen to be a close ally of deputy president Azmin Ali, who is also Selangor PKR chief.

Azmin had been named by PAS as a potential menteri besar candidate before, but he chose to stick to the SD he had signed when Pakatan decided to nominate Wan Azizah.

Selangor crisis today

9.17am: PKR strategic director Rafizi Ramli lauds PKR's Seri Setia rep Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad for declining PAS Youth's proposal of Nik Nazmi as MB, and urges PKR reps other than Wan Azizah to do so

11.41am: Selangor PAS denies an Utusan Malaysia report that it had proposed four of its assemblypersons to the PAS central leadership as MB nominees

11.42am: The Star, quoting palace sources, says the sultan is not keen on Wan Azizah as she would be a 'remote controlled' by others

4.29pm: PKR's Sri Muda rep Shuhaimi Shafie flays Rafizi for questioning PKR Selangor assemblyperson's loyalty