

PKR embarks on statewide 'MB' damage control

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The blueprint crafted to unseat Selangor Menteri Besar Abdul Khalid Ibrahim has turned into a colossal crisis for PKR and its allies in Pakatan Rakyat.

The issue has strained ties with PAS to the point where speculation abounds if the opposition bloc would crack. PAS itself is embroiled in an internal conundrum over the matter.

PKR and DAP have also incurred the wrath of the palace, while analysts note that the protracted imbroglio has affected voter support as well.

In view of this, PKR has decided to conduct a statewide roadshow to explain its stand, not only to the people, but also party grassroots members.

The campaign, which would cover all 56 state constituencies, would involve the party's top leaders, including Anwar Ibrahim (left).

Speaking to Malaysiakini, PKR secretary-general Saifuddin Nasution said the decision was made by the party's political bureau during their meeting on Tuesday.

"Party members, especially, must understand the steps taken by the leadership and the strategies taken. Party leaders felt that systematic information sessions are needed to explain the party perspective," he said.

Saifuddin expects that the information sessions would take several weeks and that if members still had reservations, they would continue addressing their doubts.

It was reported that PKR had submitted one name, namely its party president and Kajang assemblyperson Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail to the palace.

However the palace which wanted the Pakatan parties to submit more than one name, has described PKR and DAP's actions as defiance when the two parties submitted Wan Azizah's (right) name only.

This resulted in PKR and DAP apologising to Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah.

Anwar, in his reply to the palace, explained that he was following previous conventions in submitting one name.

Joint committee

Meanwhile, a joint committee has been formed following Anwar's meeting with all Selangor PKR MPs, assemblypersons and division leaders.

Sources indicate the state level committee would be led by Selangor PKR deputy chief Zuraida Kamaruddin and would include several central leaders consisting of MPs and party division leaders.

The source said several state leaders had expressed their disgust at not being included in the committee.

However, Saifuddin denied there was unhappiness following the central political bureau meeting on Tuesday, or at the state level meeting yesterday.

“The party has just concluded elections and the state committees have yet to be formed, as in Kelantan and also similarly in Selangor where they are given roles,” he said.

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