

Hopeful for Azizah, PKR seeks audience with ruler
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PKR will again seek an audience with the Selangor sultan ahead of plans for a new menteri besar to be sworn-in next Tuesday.

Still pinning hopes that party president Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail will be chosen, PKR secretary-general Saifuddin Nasution said that the audience is sought as Wan Azizah still commands majority support of the Selangor legislative assembly.

"PKR is seeking an audience with the sultan to seek his advice, seeing that the majority support (for Wan Azizah) is clear and unchanged.

"PKR will continue to respect His Majesty's sovereign position and the Selangor constitution," he said in a statement late Friday.

Invitations for the swearing-in ceremony have been issued, but the identity of the new MB is still under wraps.

PKR's last-minute request for an audience suggests that Wan Azizah has not been selected for the job, despite having the backing of 30 out of 56 assemblypersons.

This is PKR's third request for an audience with the sultan over the MB crisis. The party was rebuffed by the sultan in its previous two requests.

Palace will announce MB-designate by Monday

Meanwhile, the sultan's private secretary Mohamad Munir Bani said that the palace will make an announcement on who will replace incumbent MB Abdul Khalid Ibrahim by Sept 22.

"The Selangor Palace will announce who the new menteri besar is by Monday at the latest.

"However, it (the announcement) is up to the pleasure of the Sultan of Selangor," he is quoted by Bernama as saying.

He also told the newswire that the palace has not issued any letter to the designate menteri besar.

The swearing-in is scheduled on Tuesday morning at Istana Alam Shah in Klang.

Speculation is rife that the sultan may appoint either PKR deputy president Azmin Ali or PAS Selangor commissioner Iskandar Samad.

Azmin had earlier pledged his support for Wan Azizah as MB, while PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu said PAS will not accept an MB appointment.

Delegates at the ongoing PAS muktamar, however, booed down a suggestion that PAS reject the post if the sultan chooses a PAS assemblyperson.

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