

Selangor gov't to form advisory task force
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The Selangor government will be forming an advisory task force to counsel them on local council policies.

NONEMB Khalid Ibrahim (right) said that among the top responsibilities for the task force is to improve the delivery system for the local councils and to handle crime.

Poised to revive the debate on local council elections, Khalid said that the task force will also be overseeing and advising the state on the issue.

However, despite the initial arguments by federal government ministers that there was no way for a local council election unless the federal law was amended, Khalid still has his hopes up.

"Maybe they can advise us on a small part. They can look at some sections if (changes) can be done. It's not like we're (implementing local council elections) in total," he said at a press conference after an appreciation and awards dinner for the state local councils.

Khalid also said that the task force will also be looking at restructuring the state policy on solid waste.

"We are looking at whether each districts can manage their own waste disposal, or to continue using the services of (a waste management company). The task force can advise on which is a better option," he said.

This is set to put them on a warpath with the federal government which have announced that they plan to consolidate all waste management companies under the 10th Malaysia Plan.

At the moment, all waste management activities in the state are gripped tightly by Alam Flora, the country's biggest waste management conglomerate.

The task force, headed by former councillors Michael Soon and Abdul Rahman Moharam, as well as Sharifuddin Bidin, will come into effect on July 15.

The group of 20, whose names will be announced by the state government later, will also consist of representatives from NGOs, professional bodies and resident's associations.

Khalid also said that the task force is expected to meet once every two months.

One-third replaced

At the dinner, he also announced that one-third of the 288 councillors in the state have been replaced.

Out of all the councillors, 46 of them are women while a quarter of them are made up of NGO representatives and the disabled.

Meanwhile, Khalid also rubbished speculation that he will soon resign as MB after he was

dropped as Selangor PKR chief.

"The fact that I'm here shows that I'm not resigning," he said after a hearty laugh.

He also said that the state government will not "boycott" Chinese daily after reporting speculations of Khalid's resignation.

"The press is free to report but we want them to also be fair," he said.

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