

**Nude photos: Wong offers to quit  
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Selangor executive councillor Elizabeth Wong today offered to quit her state cabinet post and state assembly seat following her nude photographs controversy.

Wong, who first appeared calm, could not hold back her tears when announcing her decision at a packed press conference at the PKR headquarters in Tropicana, Damansara.

"I have received overwhelming support from my family, my constituents, colleagues in Pakatan Rakyat, friends and the public.

"However, in the interests of the party, I have decided to offer my resignation as exco and state rep," she said.

"I will discuss with Selangor Menteri Besar Khalid Ibrahim to arrange for the proper hand over of my responsibilities. I will continue to serve the people and fight for justice.

"I have done no wrong and I am not ashamed of my sexuality as a woman and as a single person. I have broken no law and everyone has a right to privacy."

Her announcement was met with cries of protest from some 30 supporters who had gathered with placards and flowers urging her to stay on.

It is now up to Khalid and the party leadership to decide whether or not to accept her resignation.

Also present at the press conference were Pakatan Rakyat leaders R Sivarasa, Teresa Kok, Xavier Jayakumar, Zuraida Kamaruddin, Irene Fernandez and PAS Women's Wing chief Nuridah Salleh.

Both Kok and Jayakumar later urged Wong to reconsider her decision.

**No internal pressure**

Met later, Jayakumar, who is a PKR supreme council member and Selangor exco, denied that there was any 'internal pressure' for Wong to quit.

PKR media coordinator Ginie Lim said Wong's resignation letter had been sent to the MB's office in Shah Alam this morning.

Yesterday, it was reported that nude photographs of Wong, who is also PKR Wanita publicity chief, were being distributed in public. She has lodged a police report, seeking investigation.

It is believed that the photographs were taken - most likely by a former boyfriend - while she was sleeping and without her consent. Apart for the photos, it is learnt that a video clip is also in circulation.

Wong, 37, who is single, has been serving as state executive councillor in charge of tourism,

consumer affairs and environment for the past 11 months.

According to sources, top PKR leaders met late last night to discuss the scandal and decided to end the controversy swiftly ahead of two key by-elections.

Wong has won support from both sides of the political divide, including from women in the Barisan Nasional coalition and the Pakatan Rakyat.

But there have also been calls for her to quit her seat in the Selangor state assembly, which the opposition won for the first time in general elections a year ago.

"She is a single person. How can she allow a man into her room when they are not married? What's the status of the relationship," said former Selangor MB Dr Mohd Khir Toyo.

Party sources said on condition of anonymity that they feared other more compromising pictures might emerge unless Wong stood down.

### **'She's a tough lady'**

However, Opposition Leader and PKR supremo Anwar Ibrahim did not immediately accept Wong's resignation, saying the state lawmaker had been asked to take a break and that the matter would be considered later.

"We asked her to rethink her options," he told reporters at Parliament. "I am angry. I am personally disgusted with this kind of gutter politics by Umno."

But he said he did not think this was the end of Wong's career.

"I don't believe so. She is a tough lady," he said.

If Wong steps down, it would pave the way for a by-election. The Pakatan government has 36 seats in the state assembly while BN has 20.

As an emotional Wong struggled to read her press statement, her supporters expressed their disappointment loud and clear, saying that she should not offer to quit.

"No! Don't resign! Stay on and fight for justice!" exclaimed some of them, prompting Sivarasa to intervene to calm the situation.

However, tempers flared when the press conference ended without any question-and-answer session.

One irate individual, who said he is a PKR member and a Bukit Lanjan constituent, requested Wong to answer his question.

"I spent my time coming here and I want to ask a question. I have a right (to ask). I'm a PKR member... I just want to ask a question," he said, but failed to do so.

Chiew assured that his question would not be embarrassing to her.

Wong told him she would talk to him in private.

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