

Kit Siang: Khusrin's appointment not in spirit and letter of constitution
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PETALING JAYA - DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang (left) said Thursday the Chief Secretary's appointment of Mohd Khusrin Munawi as Selangor State Secretary without consultation with the Menteri Besar was "a violation of both the spirit and letter of the Selangor Constitution".

Lim said Chief Secretary Mohd Sidek Hassan should remedy the violation by carrying out a meaningful consultation process with Mentri Besar Khalid Ibrahim on the appointment and spare the country and people a constitutional crisis.

"It has been argued that there is no mention in the state constitution that the Mentri Besar must first be informed of the appointment nor that his consent was needed," said Lim in a press statement Thursday.

"This is a flimsy and unacceptable argument, for going by this literal interpretation, Putrajaya should not have involved the Sultan in the appointment of the state secretary as there is equally no mention in the state constitution that the Sultan must first be informed of the appointment nor that any royal consent is needed."

The Ipoh Timur MP added: "What is pertinent is that constitutional conventions like meaningful consultation with the Mentri Besar and the Sultan on the appointment of the top state civil servant are carried out to uphold the integrity of the state constitution and to fulfill the mandate given by the people of Selangor when they voted for the government of their choice in the last general elections."

He said that the Chief Secretary who has been delegated the constitutional task to make the appointment, should be mindful of the different political coalitions running the Federal and Selangor state governments and the importance of ensuring an appointee who could work as a bridge-builder or at least not seen as inimical to the Selangor state government interests vis-à-vis the Federal government.

This is where the constitutional convention of meaningful consultation with the Mentri Besar on the appointment of the state secretary should have been observed, Lim reiterated.

Lim added that Article 55 of the Selangor State Constitution on "Sultan to act on advice" provides that the Sultan shall act in accordance with the advice of the State Executive Council except for specific instances – and the appointment of the state secretary is not one of the exceptional cases where the Sultan may act in his discretion

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