

State Constitution Ammendments to be Tabled on 24th, Despite the Odds
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Shah Alam – The Selangor legislative assembly is scheduled to sit on January 24 with the tabling of an enactment to amend the state constitution occupying the main agenda.

The official statement from Teng Chang Khim's office mentioned that the speaker has instructed the state assembly secretary to send out letters to all state assemblypersons informing them of the session.

The move follows beleaguered Menteri Besar Abdul Khalid Ibrahim's insistence to press ahead with the constitutional amendments giving more power to the sultan and the state government with regards the appointment of officials, particularly the state secretary.

The fiasco exploded when Mohammed Khusrin Munawi, widely perceived to be an "UMNO man" was appointed by the federal government as the state secretary. The appointment by the federal Public Service Commission (SPA) can prove to be a thorn in the flesh for Khalid's administration.

Khalid's challenge to the legal and moral legitimacy of the appointment, on grounds that he was not consulted appeared to have hit a set-back when Khusrin was sworn-in by the Sultan. Khalid was also thought to be the person 'impliedly rebuked' by the Sultan in the Royal speech, which also called to the MB to work with his state secretary.

Unfazed, Khalid and his supporters in the state assembly intends to step up the ante by amending the state constitution, restoring various powers and privileges of the sultan as well as giving MB the right to directly choose his state secretary.

It seems that Khusrin's future continues to hang in the balance.

However, Khalid's ruling Pakatan Rakyat needs to pressure another three assemblypersons for their votes since the coalition is short of the two-thirds majority required to amend the constitution. It certainly is a tall order but one that Khalid has to gear up for.

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