

Khalid Overlooks Hasan Ali's Questionable Expenditure
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By Wong Koon Mun

When PKR Selangor chairman Azmin Ali revealed during the Selangor state assembly on 23 Mar 12 on the alleged spending spree by Hasan Ali whilst still an Exco in the Selangor state government prior to his axing from PAS and subsequent removal from the state exco, one would have expected the Selangor Menteri Besar (MB) Khalid Ibrahim and his excos to convene their ever famous SELCAT hearing, or at least order some kind of an internal investigation be it within the state administration, or even among their Pakatan rakyat parties.

Azmin claimed that Hasan had splashed RM300,000 on office renovations, RM500,000 for a conference and that in directly submitting 83 names to JKR Selangor, Hasan had disobeyed the state government's policy of not having direct negotiation on state contract for road maintenance but to go through an open tender.

Thus, Khalid Ibrahim's announcement that he "feels there is no cause to take action against the spending because it follows Treasury procedures" comes as bizarre considering that the PKR-led state government and Pakatan Rakyat always brag about a clean government and ethical practices.

Khalid Ibrahim condones Hasan Ali's expenses over PKR comrade's exposé

It appears that the Selangor MB is willing to forgo uncovering how rate-payers taxes may have been overspent by turning a blind eye on Hasan for the sake of not aligning with his rival and foe within PKR i.e. Azmin Ali. Khalid is certainly jolted with ruminations from June 2010 when Azmin together with 15 other PKR Members of Parliament had geared towards ousting Khalid. Conspicuously absent from a PKR retreat, Khalid was removed as PKR Selangor chief and Azmin appointed to succeed him.

Another factor for Khalid's restraint on ordering a probe is to obscure his failings as an Menteri Besar in not noticing that rebel rouser Hasan (who was constantly making the news for his controversial views and tirades against non-Muslims) had spent lavishly and does not want Azmin to steal the spotlight from him. Khalid would rather Hasan get away scot free, than see Azmin receive the accolades from PKR and other Pakatan partners for Azmin exposé on Hasan.

Public priorities comes first before internal party squabbles

Why is the Menteri Besar not daring to report this case to the MACC, police or order a SELCAT? This must be due to him being used to sweeping all issues that prove disadvantage to him under the carpet.

Khalid and Azmin can have their differences within the party, but it should remain there, and not spill over to the public sphere. Considering Hasan's expenditure and directly awarding road maintenance contracts involve public monies, the Selangor MB and his exco should prioritize the rakyat's welfare first especially as to how rate payers' funds are being wantonly splurged. Thus, there are several appropriate options that Khalid can immediately take. He could:

- 1) Order a SELCAT hearing on Hasan Ali's expenditure whilst he was an exco
- 2) Lodge a police report or with MACC asking an external authority to investigate
- 3) Urge Azmin to provide further evidence as one method to expose questionable practices by Pakatan lawmakers themselves

Other pending issues unresolved

Numerous other any prior cases which have yet to be fully dealt with e.g. illegal sand mining which continue to make Selangor's borders smaller, hidden video camera found in the MB's office, letterhead from exco Ronnie Liu's office misused to give support to a former Klang councillor's relative's firm. These cases prove that the Pakatan state government is good in playing up the politics of hypocrisy.

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