

**Hadi: Azizan to stay Kedah MB**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
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**By G. Manimaran and Clara Chooi**

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 2 — PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang has denied urging Datuk Seri Azizan Abdul Razak to step down, confirming today that the latter will remain as the Kedah menteri besar.

Hadi said that Azizan, who suffered from a heart attack last month, was simply resting as he is still under treatment for his ailment.

“(PAS) president denies urging or asking Azizan to resign. He remains as Kedah menteri besar. [He is now only] resting as he is still under treatment,” Hadi said through his aide.

English-language daily The Star published on its front page today news of Azizan’s possible retirement due to his ailing health, claiming that PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang will also seek audience with the Kedah Sultan soon.

The article quoted Azizan as confirming that some leaders have told him to take a rest because of his health, but also that he has purportedly refused to do so, saying that he has many things to do.

The article went on to list three possible candidates touted to replace Azizan, namely three senior state executive councillors in the Kedah leadership Datuk Phahrolrazi Mohd Zawawi (Pangkalan Kundor), Datuk Amiruddin Hamzah (Anak Bukit) and Datuk Mohamed Taulan Mat Rasul (Tokai).

When contacted today, however, Kedah government leaders appeared to be surprised at the news and said they were only made aware through the media this morning.

Of the three PAS men named, only Phahrolrazi declined to speak on the matter while the remaining two said they were shocked as Azizan has remained an able-bodied leader despite his fragile condition.

Amiruddin further agreed that news of Azizan’s possible removal could be exaggerated or fabricated by those with the intention to break PAS’s solidarity in Kedah. There are 16 PAS assemblymen and three PKR assemblymen in Kedah’s 36-seat assembly.

Other government leaders, including PKR state executive councillors S. Manikumar and Lim Soo Nee, agreed with their PAS colleagues and expressed confidence in Azizan’s leadership.

When contacted, PAS vice-president Datuk Mahfuz Omar, who is also a Kedah MP, and Information chief Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man confirmed that the PAS central leadership has never discussed replacing Azizan as menteri besar.

Two Kedah PAS assemblymen — Abdul Ghani Ahmad (Ayer Hitam) and Dr Hamdan Mohamed Khalid (Tanjong Dawai) — similarly expressed surprise when asked to comment on the issue today.

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