

Azmin dismisses survey favouring Khalid as MB

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KUALA LUMPUR: PKR deputy president Azmin Ali shrugged off a survey by Universiti Selangor (Unisel) that showed Kajang voters want his rival Khalid Ibrahim to remain as Selangor Menteri Besar.

The Gombak MP, who is said to be eyeing the state's top post, claimed the survey did not represent the sentiments of Kajang residents as the sample size of 394 respondents was "very small".

"The sampling is very small, certainly in any survey it doesn't reflect the entire sentiment of the rakyat," he told reporters when approached at the Parliament lobby.

The Unisel survey, released yesterday was conducted between March 12 and 16, revealed that 63% of the respondents did not want Khalid to be replaced.

Khalid proved to be more popular than former Kajang candidate Anwar Ibrahim. 69.1% said that Khalid was "a good leader" as opposed to only 66.2% who felt the same about Anwar.

PKR had engineered the Kajang by-election to allow Anwar to contest the state seat, paving the way for him to eventually replace Khalid as MB.

'Kajang Move on track'

Initially voters appeared receptive, 59% polled in a survey by the University Malaya Centre for Elections and Democracy (Umcedel) agreed the by-election was needed to allow Anwar to be MB.

However, Kajang Move hit a snag when Anwar's sodomy acquittal was overturned on March 7 and the PKR de facto chief was sentenced to five years' jail, effectively disqualifying him from the by-election.

The party was forced to come up with a replacement candidate at the 11th hour, and Anwar's wife, PKR president Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, was announced as Pakatan's candidate on March 9.

Azmin today reiterated that the Kajang Move was still on track despite the abrupt setback, but refused to confirm whether Wan Azizah would replace Khalid as the MB.

"For now, we are focusing on strengthening our machinery. We will reach out to as many voters as possible. Later, we will discuss what comes next," said the Bukit Antarabangsa assemblyman.

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