

Anwar to explain by-election decision to Kajang folks on Monday

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Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim will go down to the ground on Monday to explain PKR's widely criticised decision which will see a by-election being held in Kajang.

Anwar, who is the PKR defacto chief and parliamentary opposition leader, announced that he would meet the public on Monday after a series of meetings with Pakatan Rakyat allies PAS and DAP, and the Selangor government.

He is expected to explain the party's decision which led to the shock resignation of former Kajang rep, Lee Chin Cheh.

Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim later announced that Anwar will contest in the Kajang by-election, which will be held within the next 60 days.

"We have a huge responsibility to explain to voters why Anwar, PKR and Pakatan have collectively decided to trigger this by-election.

"This is so that there is no misunderstanding of our intentions," PKR's Azmin Ali (pic) said when met after Friday prayers at the Kariah mosque in Cheras, Selangor, today.

Anwar and Khalid visited the mosque, which lies within the Kajang constituency, for Friday prayers as a prelude to the by-election campaign.

The by-election and Anwar's candidacy has not gone down well with PKR ally PAS. The same day Anwar announced his decision to contest, Selangor PAS stated that it will not participate in the Pakatan campaign.

Selangor PAS secretary Khairuddin Othman also said it would not support any moves to replace Khalid as menteri besar. If there is a vacancy in the menteri besar's post, Khairuddin had said, PAS would nominate Selangor PAS chief Iskandar Abdul Samad.

Today, Khairuddin seemed to have backed down from this stand after his party's secretary-general Datuk Mustafa Ali issued a statement saying PAS would participate in the campaign.

Khairuddin along with local Selangor PAS leaders were seen mingling together with Khalid and Anwar at a reception after Friday prayers.

However, Azmin's statement about his recent meeting with PAS leaders seem to indicate that the latter has still not agreed with PKR on the subject of the menteri besar's post.

"We have secured a commitment on the by-election and that is what we will focus on for now. The unity of Pakatan going into the by-election is solid and we hope to increase the majority we won."

Azmin, however, admitted that PAS' commitment did not extend beyond the by-election.

"We shall settle this one at a time. We have not discussed on the issue of the menteri besar," Azmin said. – January 31, 2014.

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