

## **Suspended PKR member begs party to allow him to take on Khalid in polls**

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**BY JAMILAH KAMARUDIN**

A former MP is appealing for PKR to lift his suspension so that he can take on Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim for the party's top post in the Kuala Selangor division.

S. Manikavasagam (pic), a vocal critic of Khalid and his administration, said that his suspension from the party was unfair.

Manikavasagam yesterday was suspended for complaining to the media that Khalid was involved in money politics.

"This is democracy, do not suspend me, please allow me to contest. Don't be afraid of the media as Chegubard and Khalid have also gone to the media," Manikavasagam, who is former Kapar MP, said when met outside PKR headquarters today.

(Chegubard is the nickname of Badrul Hisham Shaharin, an activist with PKR.)

Manikavasagam said he had never singled out Khalid as the individual involved in corruption during the party's polls which descended into chaos last weekend. Instead, he had accused Khalid's officers of corruption.

The Kuala Selangor division was among a dozen in Selangor whose polls were suspended after a scuffle broke out between members and officers assigned to conduct the elections.

Manikavasagam said that Khalid's state government officers, including

Menteri Besar Incorporated chief executive Faekah Husin, were present at the Kuala Selangor division's voting centre.

"I did not accuse Khalid of corruption. You can look at my video. There is no problem if he wants to sue me. We want to challenge him and we will not back down.

"We are going to mount a stiff challenge," said Manikavasagam.

Besides Manikavasagam, PKR also suspended seven others for breaching its election rules, including Khalid's political secretary Mustapha Mohd Talib.

Mustapha had been suspended for allegedly making a threatening phone call to an officer of the Bukit Malawati state constituency coordinator's office.

Mustapha wanted the officer to terminate the services of Manikavasagam, who had been the coordinator for the Bukit Melawati state seat.

PKR disciplinary committee chairman Datuk Tan Kee Kwong said Mustapha would be given a showcause letter and an investigation was underway.

Tan said Manikavasagam's statement had been carried on the news segments of TV1 and TV3 on May 11 and published in Utusan Malaysia the following day.

"This is a breach of Article B.7 of the election regulations which states that any disputes over the elections should not be revealed to the media or the public," said Tan.

Yusop Kamaruddin of the Pasir Salak division was also suspended for

criticising the party's central polls committee and PKR on his Facebook page. – May 16, 2014.

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