

Poser Over PAS' Silence On Abdul Khalid's Position - Analysis

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KUALA LUMPUR, July 8 (Bernama) -- PAS' silence on the position of Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim hints of a disagreement among the party's central leadership and state leaders, according to a political analyst.

Even at a meeting between PAS' central and Selangor leaders at the Pas headquarters here to discuss the Selangor political issue yesterday, they were unable to reach a decision after several quarters from PKR demanded for Abdul Khalid's resignation as Selangor menteri besar after his defeat in the race for the position of Kuala Selangor PKR division chief last month.

To political analyst Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Associate Prof Dr Sivamurugan Pandian, Pas' action in taking a stand regarding the Selangor menteri besar has two sides.

One side wanted Abdul Khalid dropped from the post while the other wanted him to retain the position, he noted.

"PAS leaders do not seem to reach a consensus over Abdul Khalid, whether to drop him or otherwise, as they are concerned that if the new menteri besar replacing Abdul Khalid is not one among them, then several other problems will arise," Pandian told Bernama.

A similar view was shared by Universiti Sains Malaysia's school of social sciences lecturer Prof Dr Ahmad Atory Hussain who stated that the conflict also occurred in the central and state PKR leadership.

"The issue arose when a PKR leader wanted Abdul Khalid to resign as menteri besar to make way for another leader of their choice to replace him," he said.

On Kajang assemblyman, Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail being mentioned as a potential successor to Abdul Khalid for the post of Selangor menteri besar, Pandian felt it depended on the opposition's decision.

"If they decide to drop Abdul Khalid, is the decision made in the interest of the people or just to please some of their leaders?"

"If the people are pleased with Abdul Khalid's leadership, he should continue as menteri besar until the end of his term," he said.

PKR Youth chief Shamsul Iskandar is among the PKR leaders who publicly urged Abdul Khalid to quit as menteri besar after losing the election for Kuala Selangor PKR chief.

Abdul Khalid, who is also Port Klang assemblyman from PKR was first sworn in as Selangor menteri besar on March 13, 2008, four days after the 2008 General Election.

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