

A Unity Government In Selangor?

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KUALA LUMPUR, (Bernama) -- While the Selangor Menteri Besar saga continues with the state ruler's consent providing a temporary lifeline for Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim to remain in office, the door now is open to numerous possibilities for Abdul Khalid to cling on to his post.

Abdul Khalid is fully aware of the precarious position that he is in now and there is no guarantee that he will be able to cling on to the position without the majority support from the Selangor state assembly.

And the support from the 12 Barisan Nasional (BN) assemblymen is not sufficient to help Abdul Khalid, now an independent assemblyman of Port Klang, to save his position.

Therefore is there any way for Abdul Khalid to remain as Menteri Besar?

THERE IS STILL HOPE FOR ABDUL KHALID

A political science lecturer from Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Dungun, Terengganu, Che Hamdan Che Mohd Razali noted that Abdul Khalid could remain the Menteri Besar if PAS fulfills its promise to back his government.

"There are already signs of internal rifts within PKR and I believe antagonists within PKR will vote for Abdul Khalid as they are not happy how the party has treated the Selangor Menteri Besar," he told BERNAMA.

Abdul Khalid himself has made his intentions known that he is ready to join PAS, but only after clearing his name on the allegations made by PKR against him.

Che Hamdan pointed out that Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has extended Selangor BN's support for Abdul Khalid and this provides some hope for Abdul Khalid to maintain his position.

On Monday, Muhyiddin, who is also BN deputy chairman, was reported saying that BN would extend unconditional support to enable Abdul Khalid to remain as the Selangor Menteri Besar for the sake of the stability and prosperity of the most developed state in the country.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS A TIE-BREAK?

The Selangor state assembly has 56 seats with PAS and DAP each holding 15 seats, PKR (13), BN (12) and one Independent. PAS, DAP and PKR make up the Pakatan Rakyat alliance that has been ruling the state since 2008.

Khalid may draw support from PAS and BN but this will lead to a tie break with 28 elected representatives at both sides. This will leave the state government in a limbo especially in drawing up policies and enactments.

This tie-break will also affect the tabling of the state budget that is expected after the tabling of the 2015 national budget on 10 Oct.

Che Hamdan said this scenario could not be ruled out and would lead to instability in Selangor.

"During then, both sides will start horse trading but I feel this will not work with PAS unlike in PKR and DAP where their elected representatives have jumped ship before.

"Though they have taken the loyalty pledge with their respective parties, I feel the elected representatives who sympathise with Abdul Khalid will turn into independents and extend their support to him," he said.

A UNITY GOVERNMENT THEN?

Another possibility of Abdul Khalid remaining in his seat is through a unity government formed with the support of 15 PAS and 12 BN elected representatives.

Apart from that, local political blogs reported that if this was the case at least another three PKR assemblymen will turn into independents and throw their support to Abdul Khalid. And if this is the case, Khalid will have a comfortable backing of 31 assemblymen.

Che Hamdan said at present, non of the Exco members have quit and this is a possible indication that Abdul Khalid still has their support.

"The Exco members have to show their respect as they were appointed by the Menteri Besar and hitherto non has quit. Moreover, an Exco member representing PAS even have stated his support for Abdul Khalid. BN already extended its support to Abdul Khalid. Thus the possibility of a unity government cobbled together cannot be ruled out.

"If the unity government materialises, it will only prove to be detrimental to PKR as the rifts within the party will widen further," he said.

Che Hamdan is also confident that under the unity government there will be greater consensus in the policies and this augurs well for the people of Selangor.

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