

No Confidence Motion Or Secret Ballot To Decide On Abdul Khalid's Fate
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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 11 (Bernama) -- Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim's fate still hangs in the balance even after Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Monday gave his consent to the embattled Menteri Besar to stay on until further developments take place.

With the latest development, Abdul Khalid's fate will probably be determined by a confidential ballot in front of the Sultan or a motion of no confidence moved at the state assembly sitting.

Abdul Khalid, now the independent Port Klang state assemblyman, was expelled from Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) on Saturday (Aug 9) for going against the party Central Committee's wishes to appoint party president Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail as the Menteri Besar.

Abdul Khalid has been the Selangor Menteri Besar since March 13, 2008.

Political analyst are of the opinion that the Sultan's consent only provided Abdul Khalid a temporary life line.

And the latest development reminds Malaysians of the 2009 political constitutional crisis in Perak that forced the Sultan to intervene.

At that time, Pakatan Rakyat (PR) state government in Perak led by Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohammad Nizar Jamaluddin of PAS lost its majority in the state assembly after three of the elected representative declared themselves as independents and Barisan Nasional (BN) friendly representatives.

The three representatives were Jelapang assemblywoman Hee Yit Foong from (DAP), Jamaluddin Mohd Radzi (Behrang) and Kapt (B) Mohd Osman Mohd Jailu, Changkat Jering, both from PKR.

And as PKR no longer had majority in the assembly, the late Sultan of Perak Sultan Azlan Shah ordered the defiant Datuk Seri Mohammad Nizar Jamaluddin and his Exco team to quit the state government.

However, a senior social science and humanities lecturer at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) Assoc Prof Datuk Dr Samsul Adabi Mamat explained the developments in Selangor being different from Perak.

"In Perak it was about elected representatives leaving the party and throwing their support for BN while in Selangor Abdul Khalid remained the Menteri Besar but was kicked out from PKR," he said to BERNAMA.

Like how the political crisis in Perak was settled through confidential vote right in from of Sultan Azlan Shah, the same may be done in settling the leadership crisis in Selangor.

The Perak Sultan's office issued a statement after meeting all 28 BN representatives and the three erstwhile PR representatives that Mohammad Nizar no longer has the majority in the state assembly.

Back in Selangor, at present out of the 56 state seats PAS dan DAP each has 15 seats respectively, PKR (13), BN (12) and one independent.

Abdul Khalid in a news conference Monday in Shah Alam announced that the sultan was satisfied with his explanation over his position and has allowed him to stay on as the Menteri Besar of the state until further developments take place.

Samsul Adabi said now Abdul Khalid has to convince the elected representatives to provide wholehearted support to stay on as the Menteri Besar.

Hitherto, Abdul Khalid is said to have strong backing from PAS Selangor in line with the Syura Council's decision that wanted the Menteri Besar continue leading Selangor.

Selangor PAS Commissioner Iskandar Abdul Samad was reported saying that the state Exco members from the party would neither quit nor stop cooperating with Abdul Khalid.

This indirectly is seen as a guarantee for Abdul Khalid to stay on even if there was a motion of no confidence against him in the coming state assembly sitting.

But then, can Abdul Khalid take for granted that the 15 PAS assemblymen will side him if a no confidence motion is moved against him?

Elaborating on this, Samsul Adabi noted that on paper Abdul Khalid has no problem in garnering the full support of the 15 PAS assemblymen.

"However, can their support translate into votes that Abdul Khalid desperately needs? We will also have to see some of the PAS assemblymen who were previously pro-Anwar (PKR defacto head Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim) are ready to go against him by voting for Abdul Khalid.

"And I believe that out of the 13 PKR assemblymen, there may be some who will vote in favour of Abdul Khalid. This may enable him to maintain his position," he said.

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