

Step Down Gracefully If You Cannot Support Your MB - Political Analysts

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By Siti Salwa Shaari

SHAH ALAM, Aug 11 (Bernama) -- Selangor state executive councillors who disagree with the decision for Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim to continue as the menteri besar have been advised by political analysts to step down gracefully.

They said it was the most apt move to take, especially for councillors from PKR, as it was the party which was responsible for starting the whole campaign to get rid of Abdul Khalid from the menteri besar's post.

Universiti Utara Malaysia's College of Law, Government and International Relations dean, Prof Dr Ahmad Marthada Mohamed said those state executive councillors should not dilly-dally in making their decisions on the issue.

"The PKR and DAP state executive councillors must respect the firm stand of their parties to get rid of Abdul Khalid, it is so unfair for them to say that they will continue serving the people as an excuse to retain their posts," he said.

He said the councillors should also realise that they were appointed by Abdul Khalid, who is now depending on the support from PAS and Selangor Barisan Nasional (BN), to maintain his position in the state legislative assembly.

With the sacking of Abdul Khalid from PKR last Saturday, the 56-seat Selangor legislative assembly comprises 15 PAS members, 15 DAP, 13 PKR, 12 BN and one independent.

PKR had wanted Abdul Khalid to step down as the menteri besar to pave the way for its president Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail to take over the post.

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) geostrategist Dr Azmi Hassan also agreed that the state executive councillors should step down gracefully, saying that Abdul Khalid could also sack them, in his capacity as the menteri besar, to ensure smooth administration of the state government.

"The parties involved should have realised by now that in this 'game', the person they wanted to get rid of (Abdul Khalid) is currently in better position and has the support of the Sultan (Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah), at least until a vote of no-confidence is passed against him," he said.

When asked whether Abdul Khalid could play safe by appointing new state executive councillors from PAS, who had pledged their support for him, Azmi said it was unhealthy for the posts to be monopolised by only one party.

"It was better for him to appoint representatives from Selangor BN as they had also

expressed unconditional and sincere support for Abdul Khalid in this crisis," he said.

Another political analyst, Dr. Chandra Muzaffar said Abdul Khalid need not be too 'soft' in deciding the status of the PKR and DAP councillors as he was now an 'independent menteri besar', untouchable by PKR and no longer answerable to the party.

"However, Abdul Khalid must always be prepared because he may continue to be defamed or his integrity may continue to be questioned," he said.

At the same time, he said Abdul Khalid could create a new phenomenon by appointing Selangor BN as state executive councillors, hence leading a mixed state government.

However, he said such an action might need BN's approval and cooperation.

"Right now, Abdul Khalid really needs support from Selangor BN because the minority government in Selangor is currently unstable and it is a matter of time before the PKR and DAP councillors make a motion of a vote of no-confidence against him," he added.

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