

Khalid says Sultan only took 2 hours to agree to exco sackings
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BY ANISAH SHUKRY

Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim today said the state ruler had consented to the sackings of the six PKR and DAP executive councillors.

"I wrote the letter (to the sultan) at 2pm yesterday after receiving news that the PKR and DAP exco had released a statement saying they will not support the MB," Khalid told a press conference after chairing a meeting with the executive council (exco) members.

"The sultan gave a written reply (pic below) to allow the MB to tell the exco they are no longer in service. The sultan replied me in two hours."

Khalid said today he chaired a meeting with the remaining four PAS councillors, noting that the number was suffice according to article 53(2) b of the Selangor state law, which states that four people is sufficient to run the state government.

The menteri besar said the sacked exco members would be given ample time to clear out their offices.

DAP's Datuk Teng Chang Kim, Yong Hian and V. Ganabathi Rao, as well as PKR's Elizabeth Wong and Dr Daroyah Alwi today turned up for work as Selangor exco members at the state secretariat building, despite receiving their termination letters yesterday.

The exco members told a press conference last night that they deemed the sackings invalid as they felt it was impossible for Khalid to have obtained the sultan's consent yesterday.

Teng also said that Khalid, who was an independent assemblyman since his expulsion from PKR Saturday, could not dismiss any Pakatan Rakyat (PR) member from the Selangor government as it was led by PR.

But Khalid today refused to recognise Selangor as a PR-led state.

"We have the names DAP, PAS, PKR and Umno. So it is up to your interpretation," he told reporters.

"But you must remember that PR is not a registered body."

Khalid added that he and the four PAS exco members would now focus on running the government and protecting the people's welfare.

"I welcome Umno's support but for the time being, PAS and I will manage Selangor's administration with the help of civil servants to ensure everything runs smoothly."

Khalid was sacked last Saturday after he refused to resign as directed by his party, to pave the way for Kajang assemblyman and PKR president Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail to take over the MB's post.

Khalid has also been facing mounting pressure from the PKR leadership to resign over his handling of Selangor affairs.

These include the state's management of its water resources, the Kidex highway and seizure of Bahasa Malaysia and Iban-language Bibles by the Selangor Islamic Religious Department (Jais).

On Monday, Khalid said the sultan had consented for him to remain as MB as of now as he commanded the confidence of the majority. – August 13, 2014.

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