

NGOs call on Khalid to quit and PAS to make a stand
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A group of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have demanded Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim resign immediately as one of the two ways to end the Selangor Menteri Besar crisis.

They said that a new menteri besar (MB) should be appointed if Pakatan Rakyat (PR) is still in command of the majority in the Selangor assembly.

They said if Khalid does not step down, the only other way to end his administration is for Islamist party PAS to affirm where its loyalty lies.

"Once PAS' decision is made, Khalid's position will be made clear because then he can no longer cling on to PAS' uncertain stance to claim that he still has the support of the state government," said Tan Yew Sing, chairperson of Kuala Lumpur Selangor Chinese Assembly Hall (KLSCAH).

"As it stands, PAS is the only party in the PR coalition that is unclear on their stance. Moreover, their meeting to decide on Khalid's replacement only falls on August 17, so how can Khalid use that ambiguity as his basis for staying in power?" said Tan on behalf of 10 other NGOs.

PAS and DAP each hold 15 seats in the state assembly while PKR's number has dropped to 13 after it sacked Khalid, leaving PR with 28 seats while PAS still remains silent on its stand over the move to replace Khalid as MB, and possibly leaving the coalition.

Umno, who has expressed support for Khalid, holds 12 seats.

The remaining seat in the 56-seat assembly is held by Khalid, who is now an independent member.

However, the figure to command a majority is 29 out of 56 seats, which means that PR is left in limbo and is short of one seat.

They also added that PAS exco Sallehen Mukhyi's claim that PAS is alone in backing Khalid without collaboration with Umno is flawed.

"We call on PAS to declare whether or not they are with Pakatan Rakyat. A government supported by only 16 members, including Khalid, is not tenable, and unless they are joining forces with Umno, to present that as a majority government would have been misleading," said Zaid Kamaruddin, who was present as the vice-president of Ikram.

He added that the Islamist party's decision may change the course of Pakatan Rakyat's future, saying that in doing so, PAS should take into consideration that they were given the mandate by the people of Selangor as a party under the flagship of PR.

"We are saddened with the worsening of the Selangor crisis, especially when Khalid is retained as a party-less MB. But even more surprising is his decision to sack six of his executive councilors (exco)," added Tan.

However, the NGOs opposed the dissolution of the state assembly as they said that snap polls will cost the state and citizens money and time.

"Any head of government, upon losing the support and confidence of his party, should just gracefully bow out," the coalition stated, adding that the political parties are the fundamental basis of a Parliamentary system.

They claimed that by insisting on his position as MB and unilaterally sacking the six excos from DAP and PKR, Khalid has "doubly denounced democracy and betrayed the electorate".

Aside from KLSCAH, other NGOs contributing to the joint statement include Suaram, Ikram, and Komas.

Following his dismissal from PKR last week, Khalid sacked six DAP and PKR exco members from the state assembly yesterday, stating that the move stemmed from their withdrawal of support towards him.

The three DAP exco members are Datuk Teng Chang Khim, V.Ganabatirau and Ean Yong Hian Wah, while the three PKR excos are Elizabeth Wong, Dr Daroyah Alwi and Rodziah Ismail.

With the sacking of the six exco members, the remaining Selangor exco members are all from PAS.

They are Iskandar Abdul Samad, Dr Halimah Ali, Dr Ahmad Yunus Hairi and Sallehen Mukhyi. – August 12, 2014.

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