

Chaos as Azmin's name surfaces for MB at PKR press conference
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Pandemonium broke out at a PKR Selangor press conference when an alternative statement was distributed to the media stating that deputy president Azmin Ali should also be considered a Selangor menteri besar (MB) candidate.

The press conference was earlier called to announce that Selangor PKR was throwing their support behind Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail to be the next MB.

The alternative statement, purportedly from the party's Selangor leadership council, states that besides party president Dr Wan Azizah, Azmin should also be considered as MB.

This was contrary to the stand taken by PKR Selangor minutes earlier.

Astonished reporters who were given the alternative press statements by a man wearing the party uniform towards the end of the press conference, hounded PKR Selangor deputy chair Zuraida Kamaruddin for an answer, which former Kapar MP S. Manikavasagam said was a "sabotage".

"I do not know who distributed this... the ones who distributed it have to answer," she said.

Manikavasagam said those who distributed it have "ulterior motives".

According to the alternative statement, Azmin should also be considered as a MB candidate based on his leadership skills, vast experience and support from the majority of PKR's leaders.

"We need a leader that is active, has wide experience in administrating and managing the government, prudent in managing the economy as well as having the

resilience and fighting skills to face Umno and Barisan Nasional.

"Azmin Ali has gained the confidence to chart the direction of Pakatan Rakyat and to make Selangor the model state of good governance," the statement read.

Khalid, a former corporate captain, became MB six years ago when PKR and its allies scored a shock win over Barisan Nasional (BN) in the 2008 general election.

Early this year, PKR initiated the "Kajang move" to replace Khalid with Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, after complaints that Khalid has been running the state unilaterally without consulting Pakatan leaders.

Khalid has resisted all attempts to remove him, and said he would remain as MB until his term ends.

PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang, alongside the party's spiritual leader Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat and its Ulama wing have also expressed support for Khalid.

Talk of an imminent split in Pakatan surfaced when the screenshot of a leaked Whatsapp conversation went viral last month. It showed a statement by PAS member Dr Mohd Zuhdi Marzuki suggesting that PAS join hands with rival Umno to form a simple majority and retain Khalid as MB.

Yesterday, PKR secretary-general Datuk Saifuddin Nasution said the party had prepared a dossier of Khalid's wrongdoings to be distributed to top Pakatan leaders today.

Khalid had challenged his party to lodge a report with the authorities on the claims, and also threatened to take legal action against any "defamatory statements" against him. – August 6, 2014.

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