

Khalid can be removed regardless of PAS's decision, says rep
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BY ANISAH SHUKRY

Pakatan Rakyat can still remove Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim from his position as Selangor menteri besar, regardless of the outcome of PAS's central meeting this Sunday, a PAS lawmaker said.

PAS central executive committee member Mohamed Hanipa Maidin said that if PAS decided on August 10 that Khalid should stay put, he would pressure the party to abide by the Pakatan Rakyat presidential council's decision.

"I will press for a statement saying that we will abide by the decision made by the rest of the Pakatan Rakyat's presidential council.

"Maybe we (Pakatan) are not going to reach a consensus. But when the majority has already made a decision, PAS has to adhere to it."

He told The Malaysian Insider that if PAS decides Khalid should remain, he would urge his party to state that it was merely its own position and that as a member of the Pakatan coalition, it would still abide by DAP and PKR's decision.

PAS and DAP have declared that they want Khalid to be replaced, but PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang has thrown his support behind the embattled menteri besar.

Hadi's endorsement of Khalid has caused a rift within Pakatan, and came weeks ahead of PAS's August 10 meeting meant to decide on Khalid's fate.

"I believe that on the 10th, we (who wish Khalid be removed) may win the argument. We can support DAP and PKR," said Hanipa at the Kuala Lumpur Selangor Chinese Assembly Hall.

He said that PAS had no other choice but to abide by the presidential council's decision, because acting otherwise would spell the end of Pakatan.

But, he was optimistic that PAS would be reasonable, given that it was still a member of Pakatan.

“The only ugly part is that there is no consensus. There should be a consensus. But it is better to at least have majority rather than no support at all.”

Meanwhile, PAS ulama will hold prayers tomorrow for Khalid to keep his menteri besar post and for the party to stand by Hadi’s decision by the time it convenes on August 10.

Hanipa yesterday assured the attenders of the Selangor crisis forum that PAS’s constitution does not allow the president to have veto power.

“I think PAS must be honest, and remain with Pakatan. I love my president, but I love my party more. Presidents come and go.”

He said he hoped PAS would not make the same mistake it made in Kedah, which had caused it to lose the state government in last year’s general election. – August 6, 2014.

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