

Selangor PKR gives full support for Wan Azizah to replace Khalid
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The future of Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim looks untenable with Selangor PKR throwing their support behind Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail to be the next menteri besar.

Its deputy chair Zuraida Kamaruddin (pic) said although there were proposals of alternative candidates, the group unanimously agreed for the PKR president to replace Khalid, in line with the party's decision.

"We call on all members to support the president as the Selangor Menteri Besar.

"It is our hope with Wan Azizah as MB, the current Selangor Menteri Besar crisis will be resolved to ensure the agenda of change and transformation spirit can be continued," she said at a press conference in PKR headquarters today.

Reading from a statement, the Ampang MP said the stand has the support of seven out of its eight MPs and 12 out of 14 of its assemblymen in the state.

The two other state assemblymen are Azmin Ali of Bukit Antarabangsa , and Khalid himself, who is the Port Klang assemblyman.

All divisions were also in support of Selangor PKR's stand, with the exception of Kelana Jaya and Puchong which have yet to complete its elections.

Zuraida said Khalid should take advantage of the show cause letter issued to him yesterday and step down gracefully.

She said a series of meetings with members on the matter revealed that Khalid was "ineffective" in handling various issues such as the Kidex highway controversy, the water restructuring deal signed with Putrajaya and issues related to local councils such as garbage collection.

"We hope Khalid understands that he was appointed to the post by the party," she added.

Asked what they would do if Khalid insisted on staying, Zuraida remarked: "It makes our job easier, it will help us to push him out, hahaha... just joking."

She said the party was ready to face the electorate in the event of a snap poll to resolve the crisis and expressed confidence that Pakatan Rakyat can retain Malaysia's wealthiest state.

Seri Andalas assemblyman Dr Xavier Jayakumar, who was also present at the press conference, had harsh words for partner PAS over its proposal to have Ijok assemblyman Dr Idris Ahmad as a "compromise" MB candidate.

"We have never interfered or recommended anyone with regards to the appointment of MB in other Pakatan Rakyat-controlled states... PKR will decide who will be the MB and I hope everyone will adhere to this," he said.

Khalid, a former corporate captain, became MB six years ago when PKR and its allies scored their shock win 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 against the two-term MB for running the state unilaterally without consulting Pakatan leaders,

These include his handling of issues such as water rationing, the Selangor Islamic Religious Department's seizure of Malay and Iban-language Bibles, as well as Khalid's push for the Kidex highway, which had upset some Pakatan leaders as it went against their election manifesto to abolish tolled highways.

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

PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang, alongside its spiritual leader Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat and the party's 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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