

Show cause letter defective, lacks specifics, says Khalid
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By EILEEN NG

Embattled Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim has questioned the show cause letter his party PKR had issued to him, saying that the notice was "defective" as it lacked specifics for him to reply.

In a three-page reply to the party's disciplinary board chairman Datuk Dr Tan Kee Kwong today following PKR's move yesterday to issue him a show-cause letter, the Selangor Menteri Besar said the show cause letter did not have relevant evidence for him to reply.

"When a notice is issued, it is a main consideration for the notice to clearly and specifically state the accusations against me by stating the relevant clauses as prescribed in the party's constitution, as well as clauses of punishments that could be taken against me.

"Such specifics have to be listed down but unfortunately the notice dated August 5 is defective without any relevant evidence for me to reply," he said.

Khalid, who is facing tremendous pressure from PKR to step down, also poured scorn on the engineered "Kajang move" which he claimed, was unfair towards him.

Instead, he said the Kajang move was a "directive" to him without giving him due consideration to his responsibilities as the menteri besar.

PKR, one of the three parties in the opposition Pakatan Rakyat pact, initiated the Kajang Move to replace Khalid with its president Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail following numerous complaints against the two-term MB for running the state unilaterally without consulting party leaders as well as the Pakatan leadership.

These include his handling of issues, such as water rationing, the Selangor Islamic Religious Department's seizure of Bahasa Malaysia and Iban-language Bibles as well as Khalid's push for the Kinrara-Damansara Expressway (Kidex), which had upset some Pakatan leaders as it went against the pact's election manifesto to abolish

tolled highways.

In the letter, Khalid said the reasons to initiate the Kajang move was never presented to him sincerely so that he could look into it in detail.

"The reasons given changed all the time, without any direction, causing confusion," he said.

Stating explicitly that he neither agreed with the Kajang Move nor former Kajang assemblyman Lee Chin Cheh's decision to quit to pave the way for Dr Wan Azizah to contest the seat, Khalid said the move had desecrated democracy and betrayed the trust of the people.

What was worse, he said, was that Lee was not handed any disciplinary action, but instead was allowed to participate in the party's internal polls, which are ongoing now.

He also criticised his party for going ahead to "force" him to quit following a July 21 meeting despite knowing that to do so, PKR needs the green light from its two allies, PAS and DAP, as well as the agreement of the Selangor Sultan.

"Such action, I humbly feel, is premature and cannot be implemented.

"In fact, if it is put into action, it will be a dangerous decision and will prejudice the stability of the state as well as being unfair, not only towards me but towards the entire exco and the Selangor people."

In a strong signal that he is not going anywhere despite the chorus of calls for him to step down, the Port Klang assemblyman stressed that he was appointed as MB according to state laws and, as such, he has to honour and implement his responsibilities as prescribed under such laws.

"I still have the confidence of the assembly and there is no reason under the law why I should quit my post," he said.

Khalid hoped that the party's machinery will be used under a politically-motivated scheme to change the direction and affect the work of Pakatan in the state as well as prejudice the work of the coalition's partners.

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

Despite calls from PKR for him to go, Khalid has found allies in PAS, with the Islamist party president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang openly backing him, with support from the party's spiritual leader, Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat and its ulama wing.

This triggered worries that Pakatan might split, and prompted PKR secretary-general Datuk Saifuddin Nasution Ismail to send notes on the plan to oust Khalid, which also included the MB's dubious deals which had affected his integrity, to top Pakatan leaders.

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

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