

**Khalid behaving like Anwar 1998, says ex-NST editor**  
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A former top editor of a pro-government daily has likened Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim's refusal to relinquish his menteri besar post to PKR's Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's refusal to resign from the Cabinet in 1998.

"What Anwar did, Khalid is copying. If we still remember, in 1998, Anwar also refused to back down and resign," Kadir Jasin (pic), the former New Straits Times group editor-in-chief, wrote in his blog.

"So don't be surprised if Khalid follows the same strategy, which is to wait until he is removed rather than resign on his own accord.

"Like father, like son."

Anwar was the deputy prime minister and finance minister before his dramatic sacking and jailing in September 1998 on charges of sexual misconduct and corruption.

Kadir said Khalid's refusal to quit could be to avoid giving the public the impression that he was guilty of the wrongdoings as detailed in the dossier prepared by PKR secretary-general Saifuddin Nasution Ismail.

In the document released to Pakatan Rakyat (PR) top leaders two days ago, PKR questioned the two-term Selangor MB's integrity including his RM66.67 million out-of-court debt settlement with Bank Islam and the subsequent deals on the sale of state land to developers; the controversial Kidex highway project, the state's water deal with Putrajaya and issues related to hikes in business license fees, rubbish collection and potholes.

Khalid has denied the allegations and challenged the party to lodge a report against him, and described a show cause letter slapped on him as "defective".

"If (Khalid) defends his position and is sacked, he will be seen a hero by some quarters and respected, while others may see him as a victim of a conspiracy and sympathise with him," said Kadir, adding that was what Anwar feared, especially if a snap election is called.

He said in the even of snap polls, PKR's allies may no longer want to be "messed around" by Anwar and his supporters after the chaos surrounding the Kajang by-election.

But Kadir said it was unlikely Barisan Nasional (BN) could retake Selangor as it held too few seats in the state legislative assembly.

"Even if snap polls were held, BN may not be able to improve its performance with its existing leaders. Selangor BN needs a major overhaul," he wrote.

Kadir said the dossier prepared by Saifuddin proved that PR leaders were not as clean as they claimed to be.

"If it's true the secret documents disclose Khalid's wrongdoings, then PR's closets are full of skeletons," he said.

At the last Pakatan Rakyat presidential council meeting, PKR had announced Dr Wan Azizah as Khalid's replacement.

Its partners PAS and DAP agreed to take the proposal back to be discussed within their respective parties.

However, PAS president Datuk Seri Hadi Awang pre-empted a leadership meeting on August 10 by openly backing Khalid as MB, a move backed by the party's spiritual leader Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat.

Today, PAS's influential Shura Council said it wants Khalid to remain as MB,

sharpening the divide within PR.

But the top council of clerics said they were willing to re-assess their stand on the issue if Khalid is prosecuted by the authorities such as the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) or the courts, to prove allegations against him.

The Shura Council, led by Nik Aziz and his deputy Datuk Dr Haron Din, met yesterday.

The PR leadership council will meet this Sunday to decide on Khalid's fate. Both PAS and DAP, the other members in the coalition, will have leadership meetings on Sunday morning to consider PKR's proposal to put Dr Wan Azizah as the new Selangor MB. – August 7, 2014.

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