

Agreement on new MB first, Sultan's consent later, says Rafizi
Malaysian Insider
Aug 8, 2014
BY ANISAH SHUKRY

PKR has yet to address the looming issue of the Sultan of Selangor's consent in changing the menteri besar (MB), despite its entire "Kajang Move" hinging on the state ruler's agreement.

The party's strategy director Rafizi Ramli (pic) said that while it took into account the sultan's role in the MB tussle, they only wanted to "cross the bridge when [they] get there".

"Let's not jump the gun. I think it's a decision-making process. You cannot pre-empt it with too many uncertainties of what may and can happen," he told reporters last night after speaking at a dinner programme with Ampang residents.

"Because there are endless permutations of what will happen with the palace and all, I think we'll take it one step at a time and the stage we are at right now is the stage of getting all parties to agree on the menteri besar candidate.

"Then we go to the next stage to get the consent of the sultan. We are not there yet."

PKR has nominated its president, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, as the only candidate to replace Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim as the Selangor MB.

Should it secure the consensus of DAP and PAS, Dr Wan Azizah's name will be brought to the Selangor Sultan, who, under Article 53 of the state constitution, has the prerogative to appoint the MB.

But Umno lawyer Datuk Mohd Hafarizam Harun last month said that as a woman, Dr Wan Azizah may not be suitable to become MB. He said a woman's menses would prevent her from accompanying the sultan at religious functions.

If the Selangor Sultan rejects Dr Wan Azizah, PKR has no alternative candidate for the ruler to consider.

"We are sticking to the official decision. The PKR central leadership council unanimously agreed to nominate Dr Wan Azizah," said Rafizi.

"That was the decision that was reached, unless suddenly there are quarters in the party who want the central leadership to convene again and revise its decision.

"(But) you can't be going back and forth. We have gone through the process and the central leadership made that unanimous decision."

Dr Wan Azizah's candidacy has already reached a stumbling block after PAS's Shura Council yesterday full support for Khalid to remain as MB.

The decision was made ahead of the Islamist party's central executive committee meeting this August 13 to decide on the matter. The decision by the Shura Council, the highest decision-making body after the PAS muktamar (general assembly), may influence the outcome of the meeting next week.

Rafizi, however, dismissed the Shura Council's decision, saying that it was an internal issue among PAS members.

"I think that's internal PAS matters, we'll wait for PAS to decide (on August 13)... The due process is to wait for PAS to come back officially with their decision.

"That is their internal process and we have no business to interfere."

The August 13 meeting was to take place this Sunday, and the postponement is seen an attempt to stave off a devastating split in PAS and the Pakatan Rakyat (PR) pact.

PAS secretary-general Datuk Mustafa Ali said yesterday the delay was due to recent developments that required further deliberations.

"We need to change it to go along with current needs," he told The Malaysian Insider yesterday.

PAS is the only party whose senior officials have publicly backed Khalid to stay on in his second term.

The stand is risking a split within the party and could risk the break up of PR, which was formed in 2008.

Khalid, the Port Klang assemblyman, is facing the possibility of being sacked from PKR for refusing to make way for Dr Wan Azizah to take over the top job in the country's wealthiest state.

The widening rift has prompted a warning from DAP's Lim Kit Siang, who said PR's future depends on PAS's decision whether to stick with Khalid or to agree to his removal. – August 8, 2014.

Hakcipta © 2013 The Malaysian Insider

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/agreement-on-new-mb-first-sultans-consent-later-says-rafizi>