

## **Is PKR's Move To Oust Abdul Khalid As MB Backfiring?**

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 12 (Bernama) -- The move to oust Selangor Menteri Besar (MB) Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim by the Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) leadership appears to have backfired, and not only that, could also lead to the collapse of the Pakatan Rakyat (PR) opposition pact.

PKR had expelled Abdul Khalid from the party on Saturday and was trying get PKR president Datuk Seri Wan Azizah to replace him as the new MB but the move backfired when Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah of Selangor on Monday consented to Abdul Khalid remaining as the MB following the former informing the sultan that he still commanded majority support in the state assembly.

Political analysts opine that the Selangor MB crisis affects the PR nationwide because it shows the true colours of their leaders in pursuit of their dreams.

Will PR's failure in reaching a consensus with PAS on the Selangor MB issue lead to a split in the opposition pact as what happened to the alternative front in 2001 due to objections by PKR and DAP on hudud?

Head of the Nationhood and Civilisation Studies Department, Faculty of Human Ecology, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Dr Ahmad Tarmizi Talib said PR could not longer claim they were in power in Selangor as they could not reach an agreement on the selection of the new MB.

He said PKR had miscalculated by picking on Abdul Khalid as their rival, a person with principles whose priority was the people's interests.

"I see Abdul Khalid's main intention is not to defend the MB's post, but more importantly, he showed to the Malaysian people the level of transparency in PR, especially PKR," he told BERNAMA on Tuesday.

Ahmad Tarmizi said the mistake was looking down at Abdul Khalid's capabilities in politics.

"Abdul Khalid does not play too much politics. His concern is for the people. He does not have to rely on the MB's salary because the amount does not commensurate with the work load.

"If it is for the money, he might as well remain in the corporate world," he added.

The view was shared by a senior lecturer in political science at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Prof Dr Attory Hussain, who said the issue involving Abdul Khalid had placed PKR in a 50-50 position on its ties with PR.

As such, he said, PAS should consider whether to remain in with the pact, adding that the best option was for PAS to be on its own.

"In this controversy on the MB issue, UMNO has expressed its support for Abdul Khalid and should Abdul Khalid choose to join PAS (he is considering the possibility), will the support by UMNO remain strong if PAS remains in PR?

"This has to be looked into because the degree of conflict between UMNO and PAS is not as tense as UMNO and PKR, whose members are mostly former UMNO members," he said.

Attory said Abdul Khalid could produce a new dimension in politics, which would be more positive, firm and truthful.

"This is Abdul Khalid's X factor. I think there is no problem for him to join another party, be it PAS, or even UMNO, which would accept him with wide arms," he added.

Meanwhile, the dean of the College of Law, Government and International Studies, Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), Assoc Prof Dr Ahmad Marthada Mohamed said Abdul Khalid should consider all the implications that could arise if he joins another political party.

"If he chooses to join PAS, certainly it will create dissatisfaction in PKR which has been trying to oust him and DAP which supports the move," he added.

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