

**Many In Selangor Prefer Someone Else Than Dr Wan Azizah
Bernama
August 19, 2014**

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 19 (Bernama) -- As the people of Selangor await the palace's decision on the new Menteri Besar (MB) to replace Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim, some Selangorians remain sceptical over the nomination of Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail for the MB's post.

Some feel Dr Wan Azizah may not fit into the new role as all this while she was never a serious politician and that she was under the shadow of her husband Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, the defacto head of Pakatan Rakyat (PR).

Many view the Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) president as an inexperienced politician, or an accidental politician rather than a consummate one. She in fact only returned to active politics early this year after her husband was barred from contesting for the Kajang state seat in what was known as the "Kajang Move" to oust Khalid.

On Sunday, the PR alliance made up of PKR, DAP and PAS nominated the ophtalmologist as the sole candidate for the MB's post to overcome the current political stalemate in Selangor.

Nonetheless, if her nomination is sanctioned by Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, Dr Wan Azizah has the honour of being the first woman to hold the Menteri Besar's post in the country.

THE PEOPLE'S VOICE

Among those sceptical on Dr Wan Azizah are several non governmental organisations (NGOs), they include Persatuan Anak Selangor Menyokong Menteri Besar (Pasmeb) and Gerak Rakyat Arus Bawah Selangor (Grabs).

The head of Pasmeb's women's wings Norhasmah Baharuddin felt PR has not taken into account the feelings and the wants of the Selangorians when the party nominated Dr Wan Azizah.

"She is not from Selangor, we don't want Dr Wan Azizah...the present MB (Abdul Khalid) represents the true leader of Selangor," she said to the media recently.

Meanwhile, Grabs' deputy president Hanafiah Hussein noted that the people of Selangor were not happy with Anwar's move to appoint his wife as the MB.

A group of youngsters who declared themselves as 'Gerakan Anak Jati Selangor' (True Selangorians) gathered in front of the Selangor State Secretariat building to protest Dr Wan

Azizah's nomination.

They want someone born and bred in Selangor to be appointed to the position instead of the PKR president who was born in Kedah.

THEY CAN FIND SOMEONE ELSE

Shahrul Naim Amin, 27, from Shah Alam agreed that Abdul Khalid has to let go his post as he no longer has the support from fellow party members but he did not agree that Dr Wan Azizah replaced him.

He felt the opposition alliance has many other candidates of caliber to choose from.

"Everyone knows who will be making decisions for Dr Wan Azizah ... she will only serve as Anwar's puppet," said the businessman.

Sharing similar views with Shahrul Naim was a salesman from Klang, Faiz Fadzil, 26, who believes Khalid should be replaced by someone from within the state.

"I don't agree with Dr Wan Azizah being the choice as she is not born in Selangor... we don't want an outsider to decide on the state's future," he said.

CONTINUE WITH ABDUL KHALID

A Risk Management Executive, Nadirah Aiyad Anuwar, 23, felt Abdul Khalid should be allowed to lead Selangor until the next General Election.

"This is only fair. Whether the same party retains power or otherwise, every one should accept the outcome as the people have the right to choose," she said.

As for an health officer from Batang Kali, Hairulshariah Md Yusoff, 31, Abdul Khalid should be maintained as the MB based on his successful track record in administrating Selangor.

"There is no need to change the MB, the people had enough with the politickings," he said.

PREVENT A STATE ELECTION

Michael Paul Ivan, 56, also opined that there is no reason to replace the MB until his term is over, as it would only contribute to political instability in Selangor.

The security officer from Petaling Jaya noted that if state elections were to be held again it is just a sheer waste of the nation's money and resources.

A technical supervisor from Rawang, Zaid Abd Rahman, 37, noted that PKR should heed to the people's voice and not make decisions for its own political gains.

"Dr Wan Azizah should not helm the state as she is inexperienced in administrating an organisation, and she is in the constant shadow of her husband," he said.

NEPOTISM

Meanwhile, the secretary for the Politics, Security and International Affairs Cluster of the National Professor Council Prof Datuk Abdul Halim Sidek pointed out nepotism is rearing its ugly head in Pakatan.

He said this referring to Anwar's move of appointing his wife as the candidate for MB's post.

In fact the PKR-PAS-DAP alliance has many people of caliber, experienced and of strong influence in politics and administration but they were all ignored.

"My opinion is that the political stalemate in Selangor should be settled by going back to the voters in deciding the direction for the state.

"This is because even if Abdul Khalid has the support of few elected representatives, he will still face hurdles in administrating the state especially when it involves approval of the state assembly," he said.

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