

Wan Azizah is Pakatan's only choice for Selangor MB
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BY ANISAH SHUKRY

The Pakatan Rakyat presidential council has decided to nominate only PKR president Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail as the new Selangor Menteri Besar, despite a suggestion from PAS to include Azmin Ali as a candidate for the post.

PKR de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said PAS's proposal to nominate PKR deputy president Azmin Ali had been set aside because Azmin wished to stand by the party position.

"Azmin said he would stick by the party's decision to nominate Dr Wan Azizah as the MB candidate. We will continue with the process and present the decision to the Sultan," Anwar told a press conference at the Empire Hotel, Subang Jaya this evening.

Anwar said this after meeting with PR's top leaders to discuss the Selangor menteri besar impasse, which has threatened to tear the coalition apart these past few weeks due to PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awan's open support for incumbent menteri besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim.

After a week of delays, PAS's Central Committee at a separate meeting earlier today agreed that Khalid should be replaced, as he was no longer a PKR member. But it proposed that PKR also nominate Azmin Ali for the top post, alongside Dr Wan Azizah.

"The PR Presidential Council appreciates PAS's decision to stay in PR, and the need to replace the Selangor menteri besar," said Anwar, reading from a statement signed by himself, DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng and PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu.

Azmin, who was also present at the press conference, said he was grateful for PAS's decision to nominate him alongside Dr Wan Azizah.

"As deputy, I stand by the party's decision, which was made after discussions with

all the leaders in PKR, to nominate Dr Wan Azizah as the new menteri besar, as agreed in the statutory declaration that was drawn up and presented," said Azmin.

Mohamad Sabu said that PAS had accepted Azmin's decision and would work together with Pakatan to obtain the Selangor Sultan's consent.

"We proposed two candidates, we met today, and Azmin said he stands by his party's decision," said Mohamad Sabu.

"Because of that, we will proceed with the palace issue as best as possible based on the decision reached today."

Earlier today, Khalid said he would seek an audience with the Sultan of Selangor and advise him on the next course of action, after PAS sealed his fate as menteri besar when it announced it had agreed to his removal.

However, it is not known when Khalid's or PR's meeting will take place as Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah is on holiday and will return on August 27.

Khalid was sacked from PKR on August 9, after defying the party's orders to step down as menteri besar and make way for Dr Wan Azizah to replace him.

However, on August 11, the Sultan consented to Khalid continuing as menteri besar despite his status as independent assemblyman.

Khalid then sacked five PKR and DAP executive council members in the state government on Tuesday, after they had signed a statement recognising him as only a "transition menteri besar".

On Thursday, Khalid's precarious position took a turn for the worse when Dr Wan Azizah in a show of strength revealed she had the backing of 30 assemblymen, including two from PAS to helm the state.

"Until the Sultan makes his final decision, I will continue to administer Selangor with the four PAS exco members to ensure the people are not affected by the crisis," Khalid said in a statement earlier today. – August 17, 2014.

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