

**PAS persisted with Azmin, but Pakatan stuck to Wan Azizah for Selangor MB, says source**  
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**BY ANISAH SHUKRY**

The hour-long Pakatan Rakyat (PR) presidential council meeting yesterday was “cordial”, but dominated by one issue: PAS secretary-general Datuk Mustafa Ali’s insistence that PKR deputy president Azmin Ali also be considered to replace Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim, a source said.

The Islamist party had proposed Azmin alongside Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail to replace the embattled Selangor Menteri Besar.

“Mustafa Ali tried to push for PR to sign two names right until the end of the meeting: Azmin Ali and Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

“But he was the minority view and at the end of the day, the PR consensus prevailed. This was the majority view of PR: that we should only push one name,” a senior PR leader told The Malaysian Insider on condition of anonymity.

“It was frustrating for him and (PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul) Hadi Awang, that’s why they pushed those two names. All along, they resisted Dr Wan Azizah, so if only one single name was nominated, it wouldn’t look good on them.”

Hadi was not present at yesterday’s council meeting because he was apparently unwell, forcing Mustafa to battle it out alone, the source said.

The source added that other PAS leaders present at the presidential council meeting, including PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu, did not support Mustafa’s argument and had already agreed to nominate only Dr Wan Azizah.

“At the end of the day, we understood that Azmin was bound by the party decision that Dr Wan Azizah is the sole candidate. So to force a second name was not easy.

“So the meeting and the final decision was quite straightforward, even though

Mustafa tried till the end. And of course there were a lot of people involved, so it took some time to draft the statement.”

The source added that the prevailing view in the meeting was to submit only one name to the Sultan of Selangor and let the process take its due course.

“Certain quarters presented the idea that it was better to include Azmin’s name, as a backup in case the Sultan rejected Dr Wan Azizah.

“But the majority view was ‘let’s not jump the gun’. If you put two names, we will just give room for this to be dragged on further.”

Selangor DAP chairman Tony Pua, who was also at the meeting, confirmed there was “no major conflict” during the discussion, but refused to elaborate further.

“It was jovial, cordial, and pleasant. There was no major conflict, but there was an issue of how to arrive at the conclusion that could satisfy everyone,” he told The Malaysian Insider.

Meanwhile, a PKR source said that the party, in its discussion before yesterday's meeting, had not dwelt long on PAS’s proposal that Azmin also be nominated for the MB post.

“Azmin himself endorsed Dr Wan Azizah in the statutory declaration. So it would have been awkward (for him to want to become MB as well),” said the senior party leader.

“As far as PKR is concerned, (Dr Wan Azizah’s nomination) was a unanimous decision. You can’t be making one decision, then going back on it. We already went through due process to agree within PKR to agree on her nomination, from the political bureau to the PKR supreme council.”

The source conceded that while some quarters in the party wanted Azmin to also be considered, theirs were "personal views". – August 18, 2014.

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