

Be patient, palace going through MB candidates, says Khalid
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BY ANISAH SHUKRY

Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim has urged everyone to remain patient as the Selangor palace considers his replacement for the menteri besar post.

"I urge all quarters to stay patient and allow the process to proceed according to the state laws and customs," Khalid told a press conference today after chairing the Selangor executive council meeting.

The Selangor MB said the palace would respond "as soon as possible" after having received the names from PKR, DAP and PAS, but did not mention any specific deadline.

"I was informed that all three parties which are PKR, PAS and DAP have sent in their candidates for the Selangor menteri besar post to the Selangor Sultan.

"I believe the next process will proceed and the palace will give its response on the candidates given," he said.

He said that the state government's administration would operate normally under the current executive council.

Khalid reiterated that he was not a part of the decision-making process due to conflict of interest.

Asked on the possibility of a snap election, Khalid said it was for the Selangor Sultan to decide.

"I cannot elaborate on this because it will lead to speculation. The priority is to find a replacement for the menteri besar post.

"The Sultan will decide on the replacement, and when the replacement is installed, my duty ends," said Khalid.

PKR said today it would only nominate party president Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail for the post, in defiance of the state ruler's request for all parties in Pakatan Rakyat to submit more than two names by today.

This comes as PAS submitted both Dr Wan Azizah and Azmin's names to the palace, a move which had strained relations with its allies PKR and DAP, who both chose only Dr Wan Azizah.

Although Khalid tendered his resignation last Tuesday, the Sultan deferred his resignation until a new MB was appointed.

On another matter, Khalid said the Selangor water agreement would be signed within this week or the next, and confirmed that Syarikat Pengeluar Air Selangor Holdings Bhd (SPLASH) was also involved in the deal.

"SPLASH will be part of the agreement through the Water Services Industry Act (WSIA). It includes the arrangement agreed upon by the state and federal government with regards to resolving SPLASH," he said.

The Selangor government through Kumpulan Darul Ehsan Bhd (KDEB) had made a takeover offer to the shareholders of SPLASH, Puncak Niaga Holdings Bhd, Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor (Syabas) and Konsortium Abbas Sdn Bhd.

But SPLASH had originally refused the RM3.17 billion offer, prompting Khalid to consider invoking Section 114 of the WSIA against the company. – September 3, 2014.

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