

New team in the offing

The move to suspend DBKL advisory board meetings is a strong indication that new members will be appointed. >2&3



Chairman
Tan Sri Mohd Amin Nordin Abd Aziz

Chan Kim
Loong

Tan Jo Hann

Tan Sri Abdul
Aziz Abdul
Rahman

Sean Onn

Dr K. Khalithasan

DBKL halts advisory board meetings

Directive came from Prime Minister's Department, says mayor

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THE Federal Government has directed Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) to suspend all meetings with its advisory board members until further notice.

Kuala Lumpur mayor Tan Sri Mohd Amin Nordin Abd Aziz said DBKL had received the directive from the Prime Minister's Department.

Asked if any members had resigned, Amin Nordin said no and that he was waiting for further instructions.

The current board members were appointed by the previous administration, where more than half of them are political appointees.

A DBKL source said the Pakatan Harapan government now wanted to ensure that there was inclusive and diverse representation on the board.

"We were told to put everything on hold. No meetings, nothing.

"This is expected since more than half of the current members are political appointees from the previous administration," said the source.

Who are the board members?

Based on the Rules and Regulations of the Advisory Board of the City of Kuala Lumpur 1989, the board must have 15 members, with the Federal Territories Ministry, Finance Ministry, and the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) of the Prime Minister's Department having one representative each, as well as two representatives from the Selangor government.

The remaining members must have knowledge on local government issues, and professionals with expertise on commerce or industries to represent the needs and interests of the local community.

A check on DBKL's website showed that 13 people from the previous administration were still listed as members (until 2019).

Out of the 13, eight are political appointees from the former Barisan Nasional government.

There is representation from the Bukit Bintang, Seputeh, Bandar Tun Razak and Putrajaya Umno party and one representative each from MCA, Gerakan, MIC and MyPPP.

The board also consists of one representative each from the Selangor government,

Under Section 6 of the Federal Capital Act 1960, the appointment of the advisory board members is by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Derek Fernandez

EPU, and Federal Territories Ministry, as well as an architect and a businessman.

What will happen to the current board members?

According to legal expert on local government issues Derek Fernandez, advisory board members are appointed by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong on the recommendation of the Prime Minister as stipulated in the Federal Capital Act 1960.

"Under Section 6 of the Federal Capital Act

DBKL Advisory Board Members



Tan Sri Amin Nordin Abd Aziz
- Chairman

Senator Datuk Mustapa Kamal Mohd Yusoff
- *Umno (Seputeh)*

Datuk Zainal Abidin Mohd Rafique
- *Umno (Bukit Bintang)*

Datuk Rizalman Datuk Mokhtar
- *Umno (Bandar Tun Razak)*

Ahmad Faisal Abdul Karim
- *Umno (Putrajaya)*

Ng How Do
- *MCA*

Datuk Wilson Lau Hoi Keong
- *Gerakan*

Datuk S. Rajah
- *MIC*

Samalah Arumugam
- *MyPPP*

Datuk M. Noor Azman Taib
- *Federal Territories Ministry*

Datuk Dr Kamariah Noruddin
- *Economic Planning Unit*

Datuk Setia Di Raja Dato Abdul Ghani Pateh Akhir
- *Selangor state*

Datuk Seri Fateh Iskandar Tan Sri Mohamed Mansor
- *Businessman*

Ezumi Harzani Ismail
- *Architect (Malaysian Institute of Architects)*

1960, the appointment of the advisory board members is by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

"However, according to the Federal Constitution, the Agong will act on the advice of the Prime Minister," Fernandez said.

The board members are public servants for the purposes of the law.

"Apart from the two representatives from Selangor who are required to be appointed by the state government, the remaining members are appointed by the Federal Government."

He added that aside from the Selangor representatives who can't be removed unless the state government revokes their appointment, the others can, but subject to the terms and conditions of their letter of appointment.

"But under Section 47 of the Interpretation Acts of 1948 and 1967, it says the power to appoint also includes the power to remove."

"The Government must inform the Agong if they want to remove the (current) board members because they serve at the pleasure of His Majesty," said Fernandez.



Kok Wai says there needs to be a change of advisory board members.



Mohd Zainuddin says a residents' representative should be on the board.



Fernandez is tipped to join the DBKL advisory board.

Calls to have board members who are experts in relevant fields

IT IS normal for a new administration to want to have their own people as board members.

However, some feel that board members should be professionals who are experts in areas like urban poverty and environment, and comprise representatives from associations representing residents and traders who can advise the mayor on relevant issues.

Federal Territory Bumiputra Traders Association president Datuk Seri Rosli Sulaiman opined that the traders associations, which have more than 60,000 members in Kuala Lumpur, should have a voice on the board.

"When it comes to the livelihood of traders, who better to represent them than people within the industry?" he said.

Rosli recalled times when decisions were made by politicians on their affairs without consulting the associations.

Rosli's sentiments were concurred by the Brickfields Community Society (BCS) - a coalition of 40 non-governmental organisations including residents associations, schools and places of worship.

BCS secretary Dr Christopher Nicholas said anyone with vested interests, including politicians, should not be on the board.

"We need to look at the three core issues affecting Kuala Lumpur, which are overdevelopment, congestion and influx of foreign traders."

Dr Christopher said regarding overdevelopment, they needed people like

When it comes to the livelihood of traders, who better to represent them than people within the industry?

Datuk Seri Rosli Sulaiman

Selamatkan Kuala Lumpur movement chairman Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman, National Housebuyers Association honorary secretary-general Chang Kim Loong and lawyer Derek Fernandez, who had the knowledge at their finger tips.

"For traffic problems, we need retired police officers, and people from non-governmental organisation Tenaganita that deals with human rights, who can address foreign worker issues to be on the board, too," Dr Christopher said.

He added that in the past, board members were from organisations that were pro-development.

Federal Territory Residents Association Council president Mohd Zainuddin Amran also agreed and said that qualified people should be on the board, including a representative for residents.

Mohd Zainuddin, who is also the RA chairman for Kampung Malaysia Raya,

said there must be representation from middle class suburbs in the city.

Other names suggested for board members included Global Environment Centre river care project programme coordinator and water expert Dr Khalithasan Kalliasam, Federal and Selangor Community Association (Permas) president Tan Jo Hann and MBPJ councillor Sean Oon.

Permas helps people move out of their temporary homes into better accommodation.

Meanwhile, DAP national chairman and Cheras MP Tan Kok Wai said the DBKL board had always been a "toothless tiger".

"But with the right 'tigers', we can make a change for the better," he said.

Kok Wai has been lobbying for a DAP representative to sit on the board for years.

Attempts by Federal Territory DAP to get a member in under the Selangor government quota hit a snag in 2011 when Selangor Ruler Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah rejected their application as he did not want a political appointee to represent Selangor.

This was confirmed then when Sultan Sharafuddin's private secretary Datuk Mohamad Munir Bani told *StarMetro* that the Mentri Besar's office submitted the name of a new candidate in accordance with Sultan Sharafuddin's wishes of having only qualified professional candidates to represent Selangor.