

# Adopt non-racial approach, says Yong

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THE structure and concept of the Barisan Nasional can be made more realistic and progressive if it adopts "non-racial politics", said Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP) president Datuk Yong Teck Lee.

He said BN should adopt this new approach as after four decades of independence, the country's political culture "is getting more and more racial and religious in nature" when it should have been the other way around.

Yong pointed out that since BN is multi-racial in composition, it should also be non-racial in its struggles.

Making his points, when debating the keynote address by BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Yong stated that though SAPP "is comparatively younger than other BN component parties (having been formed seven years ago), it was satisfied that its objective of leading the party into the national mainstream of development had been achieved.

"Although we are a young party, we strongly feel that the non-racial approach is our hope and direction

for the future generations as it can be used as a weapon to fight violence and the lies spread by the Opposition."

Yong also touched on unity which he said should be preserved and maintained at all costs.

He added that politically-motivated violence and the emergence of militant groups are worrying and should serve as a "wake-up call" to all Malaysians.

"We must not lose sight of Vision 2020," Yong said. "We should refocus and re-energise the people based on the BN's concept towards strong and successful nation-building."

Yong also touched on the dissolution of Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat (Akar) to pave the way for Umno to open its doors to the Malaysian-Chinese in Sabah.

Expressing his gratitude to Akar president Datuk Pandikar Amin Mulia and his followers for the sacrifice they had made, Yong said the move might be seen as "small but very significant. It is also vital towards the achieving Bangsa Malaysia and non-racial politics".