

12/09/2001

Abang Abu Bakar's electoral stance comes under fire

MIRI, Tues. - Former PBB deputy president Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha today came under fire for advocating that his political group remain pro-Barisan Nasional at the Federal-level but opposed to it at the State-level.

"It does not make any sense to be pro-BN at the Federal-level, but at the same time, opposed to the State BN," SUPP chairman Tan Sri Dr George Chan said, here, today.

Such a concept would be "unacceptable" to both the National and State BN, Chan added.

A similar stance adopted by Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) had failed disastrously.

PBDS was an opposition at the State-level but remained a BN member at the Federal-level between 1987 and 1994.

The concept had adversely affected relations between the State and Federal Government during the period.

PBDS eventually rejoined the State BN coalition in 1994.

Chan said "things will not work out smoothly" between the State and the Government if history were to repeat itself, and this would be a disaster for the people of Sarawak.

Chan said the statement from the Abang Abu Bakar group was merely a ploy to confuse the electorate for their own selfish gains.

"If he (Abang Abu Bakar) is not satisfied with PBB, why didn't he voice it out while he was still in the party?

"Why now?" Chan asked.

Chan said the electorate would be committing a grave mistake if they believed Abang Abu Bakar's election ploy, adding that the former PBB number two had no intention of improving the livelihood of the people of Sarawak.

Abang Abu Bakar who was sacked from PBB in 1998, had said he intended to bring Umno into Sarawak if they won the State election to be held on Sept 27.

The group had reportedly used the Umno letterhead and flags in their campaign.

They had also informed the electorate that they had Umno's backing to fight the State BN.

However, Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Razak clarified recently that Umno had never given its blessing to Abang Abu Bakar's group to use its letterhead and flags, describing such an act as illegal.

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has also repeatedly said that Umno had no intention of spreading its wing to Sarawak just yet, as the people of Sarawak were not ready to accept the party.

(END)