

24 MAR 2001

Sarawak-Umno

THOSE USING UMNO IN SARAWAK ARE LIARS, SAYS TAIB

KUCHING, March 24 (Bernama) -- Those using Umno in their campaigns especially with the state election getting closer are liars, said Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud today.

He said the people should not believe in them and should reject them in the state election.

"If they get elected and being used to lying it is not impossible that they will lie to the people," he said at the 40th Anniversary of Parti Pesaka Bumiputera (PBB) in Serian, about 60km from here.

The gathering was attended by some 2,000 PBB members from six state constituencies of Tanjung Datu, Tasik Biru, Bengoh, Tarat, Tebedu and Kedup.

Abdul Taib, who is PBB President, said Prime Minister and Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had repeatedly stressed that it was still not the right time yet for Umno to spread its wings to Sarawak.

"Umno is not greedy for seats or wanting to be in power in the state and those using Umno are out to create political disability in Sarawak," he said.

On PAS and Parti Keadilan Nasional (Keadilan) in Sarawak, Abdul Taib said the people knew who they were, some being former PBB as well as opposition members who lost several times in the state election.

"They are the same individuals who had been rejected by the people several times because they were not sincere in fighting for the interest of the people and there is no reason to elect such people in the next election," he said.

The state election will be held in November by the latest.

Abdul Taib said there was nothing that the Keadilan could do in Sarawak which had developed and prospered under 40 years of struggle of the PBB.

"PBB members should not let these people who sell Umno's name as well as PAS and Keadilan members to frustrate our party's struggle to bring peace and prosperity to the people," he said.

He said that although Sarawak had achieved progress and the people enjoyed better living standard, many bumiputera communities still needed help.

On the Bidayuh community, the predominant group in the six state constituencies, Abdul Taib said the community had advanced far ahead of other bumiputeras including the Malays.

He said the Bidayuh community was no longer depending entirely on government for assistance and had ventured into trade and commerce.

"The Bidayuhs are the first to adopt modern farming method and as such enjoy higher per capita income compared to the other bumiputera groups," he said.

--BERNAMA

MT AZZ ABG