

## **Bersih to BN: Don't threaten Sabah and Sarawak natives**

**MalaysiaKini.com**

**May 1, 2013**

**By Hazlan Zakaria**

Election watchdog Bersih's special committee on political violence and caretaker government guidelines has condemned BN's threats to withhold development in Sabah and Sarawak, if the people vote for Pakatan Rakyat.

NONE"They said that if the natives don't vote for BN, they will have no roads (or) amenities, (and will) lose their rights," said committee co-chairperson Irene Fernandez (right).

"Threats of deprivation of services and rights are a form of political violence in Sabah and Sarawak."

The threats, Irene told a press conference in Petaling Jaya today, were made by local BN candidates and politicians during campaigning in the two states.

She referred to media reports of BN chief Najib Abdul Razak warning Ibans that they will lose their dignity and self-worth if they vote for the opposition.

BN's Mambong candidate Dr James Dawos also reportedly said that voting for Pakatan will lead to the abolishment of native special rights.

Irene said that they are deeply disturbed by the continual use of racial and religious sentiment in campaigning, as these issues should be avoided to avoid the possibility of clashes.

She labelled those campaigning with racial and religious overtones as "bankrupt" of ideas and direction.

"They incite, fear, threats and violence," she lamented.

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Source: <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/228638>