SAPP 'storms' Pakatan ceramah in Kota Kinabalu
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SABAH A quiet campaign in Kota Kinabalu turned heated last night as SAPP president Yong Teck Lee and a group of supporters 'stormed' a Pakatan Rakyat event to sit in the front row.

NONECrossing over from an SAPP event across the street, Yong received boos from Pakatan supporters present at the venue in the SAPP stronghold of Fohsang, close to the city centre.

Although initially cordial by shaking hands with Pakatan candidates, things took a turn for the worse when Yong started raising his voice against PKR leader Dr Chong Eng Leong.

"You know it is not true!" he said, before moving closer to Chong.

It is understood that Yong was unhappy with Chong's claim that he had benefited from the alleged IC-for-votes scheme which resulted in an election petition over the Likas results in 1999.

NONEBoth had contested against each other then, but Yong won against Chong, who was then contesting on the PBS ticket. In 2001, the High Court found against Yong.

Yong and his supporters barged into the Pakatan event when they overheard Chong implicating the former in Project IC, from the SAPP event across the street, where 1,000 were in attendance.

An altercation was averted last night due to police intervention but the audience of 1,000 at the Pakatan ceramah continued to boo the SAPP man and chanted "debate! debate!".

Yong had asked the organisers for a debate between himself and Chong, but this request was rejected.

NONEThings got even more heated when an SAPP representatives approached DAP's Kapayan candidate Dr Edwin Bosi after Bosi had finished speaking, apparently asking to address the audience.

But Bosi only signalled to him to keep quiet.

Although SAPP has been nipping at DAP's heels from day one of the campaign, the DAP has up to this week been reluctant to butt heads with the Sabah party.

However, this week the DAP started to say in their ceramahs that the SAPP is acting as "agents" to split votes.

Rallies by all parties in Kota Kinabalu had, in the initial part of the campaign, only attracted several hundred but more and more are flooding to the events.

The total of 2,000 at the outdoor event by SAPP and DAP in Fohsang is an indicator of anti-establishment sentiments.

At the Hakka Hall this morning, about 1,000 attended the DAP event despite it being a working day, as the Pakatan campaign picks up momentum three days to the polls.

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