

**DAP's sure Chinese won't go for new party UPP**  
**MalaysiaKini.com**  
**July 21, 2014**

Sarawak DAP is certain that the Chinese community will not back the newly-formed United People's Party (UPP), which it claims was created for "personal glory".

State DAP chief Chong Chieng Jen asked today, "First, he was in SUPP (Sarawak United People's Party), then Teras (Parti Tenaga Rakyat Sarawak) and now in UPP. What's next? Where is the political stand?"

Chong said this in reference to former SUPP deputy secretary-general Wong Soon Koh, who is now leading UPP, which was registered on July 14.

Wong (right), who is local government and community development minister, and three of his colleagues - state assemblyperson for Bengoh Jerip Susil, assemblyperson for Opar Ranum Mina and assemblyperson for Engkilili Johnichal Rayong, quit SUPP on May 15.

They then announced that they were joining Teras, together with the former president of Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party William Mawan, and five other elected representatives.

But On July 17, Wong, Jerip, Ranum and Johnichal announced at a media conference that they were leaving for UPP. Mawan and the others remained with Teras.

Asked to comment on UPP, Chong, who is the MP for Bandar Kuching and assemblyperson for Kota Sentosa, said: "The Chinese community can see through it and will not support it.

"After all, when SUPP was at its height (of glory), with the maximum number of assemblypersons, it could not even fight for the basic demand of the Chinese community, which is an annual allocation of funds for Chinese schools. What can Wong do, now that he is alone in UPP?"

"Furthermore, it is not only the Chinese school issue now, but others like security, good governance and the effects of cronyism and nepotism, which affect the people's lives and incomes," he said.

Awang Tengah chided

Meanwhile, SPDP president Tiong King Sing and SUPP spokesman Milton Foo chided PBB senior vice-president Awang Tengah Ali Hassan for expressing support for Teras and UPP to be admitted into the BN coalition.

Awang Tengah was reported to have said that BN Sarawak would accept the two parties into the fold of BN soon.

Tiong (right) said SPDP, SUPP and PRS had made their stand that they would oppose Teras, UPP or any new splinter party into the BN.

“Awang Tengah cannot force SPDP, SUPP and PRS to accept the two parties,” said Tiong, accusing him and other leaders, especially those in PBB, of not being sensitive to component parties like them.

He said SPDP and other BN parties would look after the interests of all races, unlike Teras, which is for the Dayak and UPP, which is for the Chinese.

If Awang Tengah was striving for the unity of BN, he should not make a statement that hurts and shows disrespect to the other component parties, Tiong added.

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Source: <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/269438>