



All gloves are off for SAPP and PKR
Malaysiakini.com
October 28, 2010

It is now a full-scale war between the two opposition parties contesting the Batu parliamentary seat.



Sapi

After weeks of posturing and peace talks in the run-up to nomination day on Tuesday, the mitts are finally off as both SAPP and PKR declare themselves the saviors of Sabah.

Though SAPP president Yong Teck Lee told journalists earlier that SAPP and PKR would not attack each other and focus on their common enemies BN and Umno, it seems he could not help himself.

Yong, who is SAPP's candidate for Batu Sapi, launched the first salvo on Tuesday night telling voters at a ceramah that there is too much infighting in PKR that it would make no sense to become part of Pakatan Rakyat coalition.

He claims that the PKR disarray was bad to the point that some of the party members were involved in a fistfight at the Sandakan airport over the party's choice of candidate, hours before the nomination process.

"They were boxing in the airport. If a husband and wife fight at home every day, do you want to join that household? That's why we say, we can be friends, but not necessarily get married," he said to the amusement of the small crowd assembled in Kg Karamunting Baru.

Yong also tugged at local sentiments, telling his listeners that voting for Pakatan would be no different from voting for BN as both are sombong (snobbish) Peninsular Malaysia-based parties while SAPP is the only home-grown party capable of creating a better Sabah.

Yong never delivered

Returning the salvo, PKR supreme council member and Johor chief Chua Jui Meng sliced through Yong's credentials as a leader, questioning his track record as a politician and having stuck with the BN for the past 16 years.

"I ask Yong to look at his own record when he was chief minister. During his term, did he implement the reform he talks about, especially the autonomy of Sabah?"

"I never heard of him talking about autonomy when he was chief minister," he said yesterday during a press conference at PKR operations centre.

PKR candidate Ansari Abdullah also brushed aside Yong's claim of an altercation between PKR members, saying such incidences are normal in politics.

"I would like to remind all that when the BN announced its candidate, almost all (BN)



Sabah PKR, Ansari pointed not lost any of its Sabah nor senior leaders general elections. "I think SAPP lost more than assemblypersons, they now deputy (Raymond Tan Shu in the media. So please put your own house in order before you talk about others," he said.



Sekong committee members left the hall... so this is something very common in politics."

Retorting Yong's claim that there was persistent infighting in out that the party has assemblypersons in since the March 2008

us. From four have two. His former Kiah) also attacked him

Yong could have been sole candidate but...

Chua claimed that there had been many attempts by PKR to convince Yong to side Pakatan in this by-election, but in the end, the SAPP chief decided to throw it all back at their faces.

He said this left them with little choice but to go on an all-out offensive against SAPP as that is the only way Sabah Pakatan will have any chance in this contest.

Chua explained that during negotiations, Pakatan was willing to fully back Yong's candidacy in a straight fight against BN, provided that he stood under the Pakatan banner.

"When campaigning door to door and at markets, restaurants and among the Chinese communities, the most frequent question people ask me is, why is it a three-cornered fight?

"Pakatan must come in, because we need to have a presence in Sabah through a local candidate. We have only one message... join the rest of the country, especially the Chinese in Peninsular (Malaysia) and Sarawak to bring change to the country and Sabah.

"Sibu is the turning point for Sarawak. The BN stronghold fell and because of that the whole BN in Sarawak is threatened. That's why BN has to delay the state polls.

"We encourage the Batu Sapi people to be the Sibu for Sabah... this will shake the BN in Sabah," he said.

Copyright © 1999-2007 Mkini Dotcom Sdn. Bhd.
Source : <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/146614>