

Taib, Samy Vellu, Rafidah - time to go
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I refer to the malaysiakini report RM32 mil kickbacks - tip of the iceberg. One does not have to be a political scientist to know that the final curtain is about to fall on the aging Sarawak chief minister as one by one his misdeeds of his more than 25 years in the chief minister's post is being exposed to the public.

With the latest scandal of kickbacks of more than RM32 million, his days are numbered and one would not be surprised if he has to make way for the young blood in the near future. After all, age is catching up with him and his last health scare will make it incumbent for him to leave office as soon as possible.

An 'arrangement' could be made whereby if he leaves his office quietly without a fuss soon, no investigations would be done by state agencies into his untold wealth and how they were accumulated. He can then spend his golden age in the lap of luxury like other dictators and despots who had plundered state assets for their own selfish needs.

Sarawak and Sabah had the potential to be very prosperous states where all levels of society could enjoy a high standard of living but poor leadership has hindered their development and corruption and abuse of power by the powerful elite has destroyed their wealth.

Our national leaders dare not interfere in these two giant states and as a result, the two chief ministers there, and their cronies, have had a field day raiding state assets for their own use knowing that the national agencies in charge of curbing corruption will not dare touch them without political approval.

It is a wild, wild east in these two states and it is a good thing that Sarawakians in their last state polls had voted in a large number of oppositions member to the state assembly to check on the abuse of power by the ruling elite.

Lim Keng Yaik of Gerakan has already made way for his deputy and one tends to wonder aloud about S Samy Vellu, Taib Mahmud and Rafidah Aziz who have been around for ages. Will we see the same old same old tired faces come the next general election standing for office with all their skeletons in their closets?

'Change or be changed' is a good motto for us to use for the coming polls as the people's expectations are higher for our political masters to deliver the goods and make good on their solemn promise to fight corruption and abuse of power.

Before voting, voters must ask themselves if they are better off today with higher food, transport and fuel costs compared to before the last elections. I, for one, will not be tricked by any 'feel good' factor and will vote with my conscience.

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