

**Umno ho-hums as Yong raises issue on ceded blocks**  
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The Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP) has run out issues in the by-election for the Batu Sapi Parliamentary seat to the extent that it is raising the issue on the oil 'Blocks L and M' belonging to Brunei, said Umno vice-president Mohd Shafie Apdal.

He said the oil issue had already been decided and should no longer be raised in order to maintain good relations between Malaysia and Brunei.

"The SAPP candidate, Yong Teck Lee, has run out of issues to woo support from the constituents in Batu Sapi to the extent that he had raised the issue on the oil 'Blocks L and M' belonging to Brunei.

"This matter has been decided and should not be raised again," he told reporters after launching the Risda Briefing Programme at Kampung Segaliud, about 70 km from Sandakan today.

Mohd Shafie, who is also the Rural and Regional Development Minister, said the Barisan Nasional (BN) had all the answers to the issues raised by Yong and the Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) in the Batu Sapi by-election on Nov 4.

Earlier in his speech, Mohd Shafie said Yong had previously served as Sabah chief minister and should have resolved all the issues raised at that time.

Meanwhile, MCA Youth chief Wee Kah Siong called on the young voters in the Batu Sapi Parliamentary constituency to continue supporting the BN to further boost economic activity in Batu Sapi and Sandakan.

He said Sandakan was one of the areas in Sabah whose economy and commerce had grown rapidly due to the efforts made by the BN and this should be maintained.

"During my visit to meet the younger generation earlier, the feedback that I received was very encouraging, there were not many complaints," he told reporters after attending a dialogue session and lunch with the Chinese community in Sandakan today.

"I also noticed that some groups are trying to raise the issue 'Sabah for the Sabahans' here. I feel we should be more responsible with our statements because Sabah, Sarawak and the peninsula are one entity (Malaysia)," he said.

Wee said such sentiments, including the claim that Sabah was being sidelined was not accepted by the young generation in Sabah because it would only be to the detriment of Malaysia as a multi-racial country.

Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) deputy president Maximus Ongkili said the federal government under the leadership of Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak continued to ensure that the rights of Sabah and Sarawak which were enshrined in the federal constitution were protected.

He said almost all the basic issues in the agreement on the formation of Malaysia had been included in the constitution and should not be raised again merely to seek popularity.

"For example, matters pertaining to the local government, the autonomy of the Sabah state government still exist. The same goes for the judiciary, we still have the Borneo High Court and the Malaysian High Court.

"This shows that the rights of the states of Sabah and Sarawak are always protected as stated in the constitution," he said at a function at SK Karamunting, near Sandakan today.

In the by-election for Batu Sapi, the BN is fielding Linda Tsen Thau Lin and 25,582 voters are eligible to cast their votes on Nov 4.

LDP wants SAPP seats

Meanwhile the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will request the Barisan Nasional's (BN) top leadership for seats allocated to the Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP) in the last general election, said its president Liew Vui Keong.

He said the LDP, set up in Tawau 21 years ago, was one of the BN component parties that were getting increasing support from the Chinese community.

However, he said, the LDP would not specify the number of seats that should be allocated to it in the next general election, he told reporters after opening the 21st annual general meeting of the LDP, Tawau today.

"We did not specify the number of seats requested for our party (LDP), this is up to the BN's top leadership," said Liew.

Currently, the LDP has one Parliamentary seat, namely Sandakan, held by Liew himself, and three state constituency seats, namely Merotai, Tanjung Kapur and Karamunting.

"As a party that has reached the age of 21, the LDP will continue its struggles within the BN for the sake of the community in the state and country.

"That's why we will defend the seats that had been allocated to the LDP in the past election besides requesting for additional seats," he said.

On the disappointment expressed by the LDP Youth wing, which met yesterday, on the allegations and criticisms levelled at the LDP as though the party was in the opposition, Liew said they should be perceived as constructive criticisms to improve the LDP leadership.

The LDP meeting this time involved 927 delegates and observers representing 57 LDP divisions throughout Sabah, including two divisions that were newly set up.

- Bernama

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