

**Taib: I've got more money than I can spend**  
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Sarawak Chief Minister Abdul Taib Mahmud has been recorded admitting he has an inordinate amount of wealth as well as offering hundreds of ringgit at every longhouse in two videos believed to have been taken during the May 16 Sibu by-election campaign.

NONE According to a caption on the Youtube website which is hosting the videos, Taib's remarks were made during a by-election speech on May 13 to a long house audience at Sungai Aup, about 20 minutes' drive from Sibu city centre.

Anti-Taib website Sarawak Report, which transcribed the speech, said the recordings show the aging politician "employing his tried-and-tested method for winning seats, without realising that time and technology has moved on."

Alluding to DAP candidate Wong Ho Leng's eventual victory over SUPP's Robert Lau in Sibu, Sarawak Report said Taib "should have known that what you say in public these days gets recorded".

According to Sarawak Report's transcript of Taib's speech, in which he switched between Bahasa Malaysia and English, the chief minister sought to persuade his audience that he had no cares other than for the interests of the people.

He was even willing to part with his own wealth for their sake, since he has more than he needs for himself, in addition to being under the care of his children.

"My aims (are) always for the people. I got more money than I can ever spend. So I don't care about money. All my children are looked after, so I am giving you something very nice," said Taib.

While Taib had previously bragged about his family's fortune in public to impress people of modest means in Sarawak, alleged Sarawak Report, this is the first time that such remarks were recorded for public to see and hear for themselves.

'I'm prepared to give. No change needed'

NONE "In so doing, he has demonstrated that while he officially disguises the fact that he is the real owner of his family's fortune by using his siblings and children as nominees, he still thinks he can get away with bragging about it in public, especially when he is trying to impress voters he wants to bribe."

Another video of the same speech sees Taib making what looks like a direct offer of money to the audience at the longhouse.

"I am prepared to give you RM600 ringgit per (longhouse) door. Normal thing, right? No change (needed). People have said that's a lot of money," said Taib, whose offer was met with claps of approval.

Taib is heard promising how he can bring economic activities and investors from around the world to Sibu to raise the living standards of its constituents.

"I have many friends all over the world. They are in Germany, Japan, (and) China. We can talk, (I can) ask them to invest here."

In the rest of his speech, Taib is said to have tried to persuade voters to agree to a grand 'master plan' that he said would provide the constituency with amenities and development.

Sensibly, however, the people of Sibu rejected Taib's suggestions, said Sarawak Report.

"Sarawak is littered with failed 'master plans' where only a few Taib cronies and family members made a profit. After 30 years, the people know that the only 'progress and benefit' Taib really cares about relates to that of his own bank account.

"To give him their land is to lose it," said Sarawak Report

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