

DAP all out to boost chances in Sarawak polls
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KUCHING – The national DAP is helping their counterpart in Sarawak to prepare for the coming election which would fore-shadow the general election. The hope is for the Pakatan Rakyat to at least deny the state Barisan Nasional a two-third majority.

MP for Petaling Jaya Utara, Tony Pua who is DAP publicity chief and MP for Jelutong Jeff Ooi are in the state to share with their comrades their expertise in running the election.

Pua said in a press conference yesterday at Kuching DAP headquarters said they would be holding the "Election Preparatory and Strategy workshop," in Kuching, Sibul and Miri.

Ooi (left), Chong and Pua speaking to the press about their party plans

He said they would analyse the strength and weakness in the Sibul by-election campaign.

"It's more of working on the strategies that allow us to convince voters that DAP is a party of their choice like Sibul and hopefully, the winds of change would blow through the rest of the state," he said.

"The preparation would also benefit our Sarawak comrades in case the state election coincides with the general election," he said.

He hoped that the party would achieve another breakthrough like the time in 2006. DAP wrestle six seats from their arch rival, SUPP, in the May 2006 state election.

Pua said Sarawak would be divided into three zones, North consisting of Miri, Lawas and Bintulu, Central Sibul and Sarikei while the South zone would be Kuching, Mambong, Stampin, Serian and Sri Aman.

"The headquarters team would be split into representative zones to focus on the area of their expertise but the overall National Election Director would be Tan Kok Wai, MP for Cheras," said Pua.

Calling the state election an important battleground, Ooi said DAP is offering an alternative to the BN government which has been around for umpteen years.

"What we intend to do is to show our solid track record and allow the people to make a choice for a better and transparent government," he said.

Ooi said for the last two and half years Pakatan Rakyat-governed states has shown good governance especially Penang and Selangor, and he said it was time for the Sarawak people to be given better treatment from a reliable state government.

Meanwhile, on the election scenario, Bandar Kuching MP Chong Chien Jen doubted that the Pakatan Rakyat would be able to take over the state government. He said there may be a chance of denying the current state government a two-third majority. This, he said, will boost the confidence and momentum throughout the whole nation to face the general election.

In another development, Bernama reported that the Sarawak Wanita Barisan Nasional (BN)

is unperturbed by the intensified efforts of Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) to recruit new women members to strengthen its support in the state.

Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) Wanita deputy chief Fatimah Abdullah said the women in the state would be able to evaluate for themselves the BN's track record, credibility and commitment to bring development to Sarawak.

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