

MoCS: Thank you, Taib for being 'THE' issue
Malaysianmirror.com
25 September 2010

KUCHING - The Movement For Change, Sarawak (MoCS) has expressed its 'gratitude' to Chief Minister Abdul Taib Mahmud for wanting to stay put and to lead the Sarawak BN into the coming state election.

"Taib's decision is expected. As usual, he has all sorts of reasons and excuses for not stepping down. But MoCS welcomes his decision. Now our battle cry for 'Regime Change' in Sarawak will reverberate louder throughout the state come the state election.

"With Taib's decision, he will become the main issue for us to urge Sarawakians to wake up and help dismantle 30 years of the same, old, corrupt regime which seems to border on senility now," the movement's leader, Francis Paul Siah, said in Kuching on Monday.

"In fact, many BN people in Sarawak are actually worried now that Taib has insisted on leading the State BN into the elections. Many had informed me privately that they prefer a new face in PBB (either Abang Johari or Adenan Satem) to spearhead the BN challenge in the coming polls. They are aware that Taib will be the main issue for the opposition and they are concerned," he said.

The chief minister said in Kuching last Saturday that he has decided to stay as his services were still needed by the people.

"My family members have agreed that I should not disappoint the people. I will continue to help Sarawak," Taib declared at the Kuching Airport on his return from overseas.

Siah revealed that one senior state BN leader rang him soon after hearing of Taib's announcement and exclaimed, albeit light-heartedly, that Pakatan Rakyat can now make 'char sio' (roasted pork) out of his party (a Sarawak BN component).

He, however, declined to reveal the identity of the leader saying that, "I am duty bound to protect his identity as he spoke to me in private and in confidence."

"But I'm revealing this to let those who think they are all powerful and almighty in Sarawak that even their comrades and allies will abandon them if they continue to be blind to the writing on the wall or deaf to the thundering voices of dissent," Siah added.

The MoCS leader said he was aware that there are many BN people in Sarawak who want changes and reforms but they are facing a major stumbling block - Taib himself.

Siah urged those in the Sarawak BN who have been clamouring for reforms to opt for the alternative come the state election.

"I am sure there will be plenty of room for them to contribute their talents and services in a new state government should there be one after the state election.

"In politics, you must dare to choose the lesser of two evils. If the lesser evil becomes evil once they are in government, then people's power will get rid of them in the next election. It is the responsibility of the citizenry to oust evil politicians and evil governments," he said.

Siah conceded that the Barisan Nasional concept of power-sharing is actually a good system of governance.

"In the first place, it was instituted to ensure that the multi-racial façade of Malaysian society all have a say in the administration of the state and country.

"Somehow, along the way, bad leaders emerged. They became greedy and corrupt and abused their power. They formulated unjust policies to benefit themselves and the citizens suffered. Sadly, it seems that some even want to stay on until they die in office.

"Eventually, Barisan Nasional will self-destruct and there are already signs of that happening in the Sarawak BN.

Siah said Sarawakians must realize that Barisan Nasional is just a name coined for political expediency and not voting for Barisan Nasional does not mean that they are discarding the power-sharing concept of governance.

"It is a must for any government formed in Sarawak to be represented by all the different races. A new state administration will also have to practice a similar system and ensure that the voices of all are heard. It is irrelevant if it goes by another name other than Barisan Nasional.

Siah told Sarawakians not to listen to declarations by BN politicians that "only the Barisan Nasional can deliver" this and that, making it sound as if that they and they alone possess the "sole God-given right to govern".

"This is old, monotonous music from a broken record played on turn-tables and the juke box. Now we are listening to melodious songs and music with quality sound system on digital discs and i-phones", he said.

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