

LDP chief appeals for Chinese vote for BN candidate
Malaysianmirror.com
29 October 2010

VKLiew_Idp02SANDAKAN - As campaigning for the Batu Sapi by-election entered its fourth day, an appeal has gone out to the more than 9,000 Chinese voters in the constituency to vote for BN candidate Linda Tsen Thau Lin of Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS).

V. K. Liew (left), president of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), a BN component, cited three main reasons why the Batu Sapi voters should not elect either of the two other candidates -- Yong Teck Lee of the Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP) and Ansari Abdullah of Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) -- in the three-corner contest on Nov 4.

"Firstly, both of them are not genuine in wanting to serve the constituents in Batu Sapi wholeheartedly. They both have made it known that they just want to use the by-election to gauge their popularity.

"At one stage, Yong even went on to say that he wanted to see how many per cent of Malay or Chinese voters will vote for him. He will then use it to as an average to see how the Sabah voters will vote for him and the SAPP come the 13th General Election.

"This is an absolute insult to the Batu Sapi electorate as Yong is using them just to measure his strength and nothing else," Liew told Bernama Friday.

He also said that Ansari was also using the by-election for his own survival within his party.

"We have seen how he ended up being picked by the PKR leadership, with so much ugly fighting between the two camps in PKR. This was seen publicly at the Sandakan airport when the PKR camp opposing him openly fought with his men," he said.

Liew, who is Sandakan MP, also said that Yong had a poor track record as the Sabah chief minister when the SAPP was a BN component before it withdrew from the coalition two years ago. Yong was chief minister from 1996 to 1998.

He said the people of Sabah had also seen over the last few days how Yong had established a "pact" with PKR, thus making his "Sabah for Sabahans" slogan a mere rhetoric because "Yong has said that he can do without a West Malaysian based party but his 'agreement' with PKR proves otherwise".

Liew also said that Yong's argument that he wanted to fight for the rights of Sabahans and to be the voice for Sabahans in Parliament was flawed for the simple reason that the party already had two MPs.

"Is he saying that his two MPs are useless and not effective in bringing the voice of Sabahans to Parliament? It is obvious that Yong has no confidence in his two MPs," he said.

On the BN candidate, Liew said Tsen could have rejected the candidacy but had accepted it because she had the "burning desire" to complete the mission her late husband, Edmund Chong Ket Wah, had set out to accomplish.

Chong's death in a road accident on Oct 9 had necessitated the by-election. Liew said it was

the desire to serve the people in Batu Sapi that made a great difference between Tsen and the two other candidates.

"Let her carry the light her late husband left for her to continue to shine through the lives of the Batu Sapi people. Let us pray together, without ceasing, that she will bring that light to Parliament come Nov 4," he said.

Batu Sapi has 25,582 voters, of whom 1,535 are postal voters. Chong had won the seat in the 2008 general election with a 3,708-vote majority in a straight fight with an independent candidate. - Bernama

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