

Ansari insists on debate with Yong
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SANDAKAN - Parti Keadilan Rakyat candidate for the Batu Sapi parliamentary by-election, Ansari Abdullah, insists on a debate with his Sabah Progressive Party opponent Yong Teck Lee.

Bernamea reported that Ansari had said that Yong, the SAPP president and former Chief Minister, was just making an excuse to avoid a debate when he claimed that he (Ansari) had no local standi to represent PKR because he was only the Tuaran head of the party.

"The debate is not between parties. The debate is between candidates (for the Nov 4 by-election). So I hope Yong will make himself available to present his case so that the people of Batu Sapi can judge for themselves which of the three candidates is the best choice for them," he was quoted as saying by the news agency.

"Maybe Yong is thinking of a court case involving us when I represented (former Sabah Chief Minister) Harris (Salleh) against him. But you can tell Yong this time people will be the judge."

Also present at the press conference were Selangor Menteri Besar Khalid Ibrahim, Sabah DAP chairman Hiew King Chiu and PAS vice-president Mahfuz Omar.

On Thursday, Yong said Ansari had no local standi to debate him, but was willing to have it out with PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim.

Ansari said that debate and discourse should be made a culture among political parties and the people of Sabah.

By refusing to the debate, he added, Yong seemed to prefer going back to the politics of the 1960s.

On a related matter, Sabah Chief Minister Musa Aman on Thursday had refused to entertain a debate call by Yong to discuss about the state's autonomy.

Yong had challenged Musa as head of the state government to a debate at the Hakka Association Hall on Sunday after Musa dismissed SAPP's campaign for the upcoming Batu Sapi by-election as outdated.

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