

Don't play politics of hate, Yong urged
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SANDAKAN – MCA president Dr Chua Soi Lek has told Sabah-based opposition party, Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP), not to play up the 'Sabah for Sabahans' brand of politics.

"That is old-fashioned politics. There is no need to promote hatred. What is needed is the politics of development. We need to work together and move forward.

"It is wrong to play up an issue that promotes autonomy or exclusiveness such as 'Sabah for Sabahans'.

"Sabah has enjoyed some amount of respect, and at least five ministers in the Federal cabinet come from Sabah," he said.

Dr Chua was speaking to reporters after a walkabout to campaign for Barisan Nasional (BN) candidate Linda Tsen at the Tanah Merah market and nearby Bandar Nam Tung here Sunday.

Noting that the people were more demanding now, he said every politician needed to change to adapt to the new scenario and not bring up old issues or old fashioned politics.

"There is no more stronghold for Barisan, PKR and SAPP, and the people are more sophisticated and demanding. So, political parties must know how to respond to this new scenario," he said, according to Bernama.

Therefore, the MCA president reasoned, in order to become a high-income nation by 2020, the cooperation of every state was needed, including Sabah.

"Politics of integration, inclusiveness and development should take centre stage, instead of promoting politics of exclusiveness among Malaysians," he added.

In the Nov 4 by-election, Tsen, the widow of Edmund Chong Ket Wah, is facing a three-corner battle with PKR's Ansari Abdullah and SAPP president Yong Teck Lee.

The Batu Sapi parliamentary constituency, which encompasses the two state seats of Karamunting and Sekong, has 25,582 voters.

Of the voters, 15,099 or 59.02 per cent are Muslim bumiputera, 689 or 2.69 (non-Muslim bumiputera), 9,737 or 38.06 per cent (Chinese) and 57 or 0.22 per cent (others).

In a related development, two debates that were scheduled to take place on Sunday in lieu of the Batu Sapi by-election on Nov 4 turned into non-events.

The first was to have involved one of the three candidates, Yong, and Sabah Chief Minister Musa Aman.

The other, organised by another candidate, Parti Keadilan Rakyat candidate Ansari Abdullah, was to have involved him, Yong and Barisan Nasional candidate Linda Tsen Thau Lin.

However, the debates never saw the light of day when none of the suggested debaters

turned up.

Yesterday, Sabah Chief Minister Musa slammed Yong as a desperate and irresponsible leader "who says one thing but does just the opposite".

"He is a dangerous and an irresponsible leader who says one thing now but when he was in power, he did just the opposite. It is a desperate attempt to grab power.

"This kind of leader cannot be trusted, whether as an MP or state assemblyman, let alone as he describes himself - a chief minister-in-waiting."

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