

## **Trouble brewing as SUPP faces quit threats**

**Malaysianmirror.com**

**02 November 2010**

NEWS FOCUS Trouble is brewing in Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) again - this time with threats of mass resignation from its Engkilili members. The chairman of Engkilili, Toh Heng San, started the ball rolling by resigning with immediate effect from Tuesday (Nov 2).

However, in a show of calmness before the storm, SUPP secretary general Sim Kheng Hui, when contacted by Malaysian Mirror, said the party is only concern with the voters' support and not on the "unhappiness of a few people".

Toh's resignation was due to the official acceptance of SNAP-turned-BN friendly Independent candidate, Jonicol Rayong, who won the 2006 State election against SUPP Jonathan Krai Pilo by 426 votes. Rayong was admitted officially during the Barisan Nasional pre-council meeting Sunday before the DUN sitting on Monday.

In a press statement, Toh said it was with grief that he quit the party after being a member since 1969. He was even jailed for 8 years as a political detainee.

Toh said he was forced to make the painful decision because SUPP has become different from the party he knew in yesteryears. He added that the political principal of "From the masses and back to the masses" is gone and now he claimed that the party is controlled by one man alone.

"On many occasions, Party Central unilaterally either over-ruled or completely ignored the decisions adopted by Special Delegates Conference (SDC) / Delegates Conference (DC) / Central Committee (CC) / Central Working Committee (CWC)", he stated.

He said during the year 2008 and 2009, the DC / CC / CWC unanimously resolved not to accept Johnical Rayon, the Independent ADUN for Engkilili into SUPP, because this would create a bad precedence and it is against Barisan Nasional stance and policy which had been announced by Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak but this was ignored.

In the 2006 state election, SUPP lost 8 of its 19 seats contested. It was the worst defeat in its history and the party's popularity had slide since then. The last loss was in the Sibuluan by-election in May this year when its stronghold, the Sibuluan parliamentary seat, fell to DAP.

Sim said Tuesday that he had never received Toh's resignation letter and disagreed that Toh and the branch were not informed of the party accepting Rayong.

"Toh has not been attending CWC meetings lately and in August, two-third of the Engkilili branch committee members accepted Rayong to join us. We did a survey and Engkilili people are in favour of Rayong," he said.

Sim pointed out the voters of Engkilili had accepted Rayong and that was the important thing for the party. He denied that the party had played out Toh.

An angry Toh said he never received any letter from SUPP headquarters. "They are all liars, the leaders are only concern about themselves, not the members or the grassroots," he alleged.

Toh who was the Engkilili State Assemblyman from 1991 to 2006 gave way for Jonathan Krai Pilo, a headmaster then. Calling SUPP leaders opportunists, Toh alleged that the party is not for the people anymore. "We are all small fry, we are nothing in their eyes," he said venting his anger at party leaders.

"Come this election, we will show them," he said without emphasizing what he wants to do.

In support of Toh, Jonathan also said he is not happy about the party. He gave up his headmaster post to stand in the election and lost. "I feel betrayed in a way. Last time, Rayong was contesting and saying bad things about us. Now they want to accept such a person," said Jonathan.

Jonathan said a mass resignation is being planned after a meeting with Toh very soon. "I believe we can get 1,000 to resign," he added.

Upset that he was in the dark about Rayong being accepted, he said it was hurting to him after he had put so much faith in the party. "Since they accept Independent, maybe I can stand as an Independent this time in the coming election," he said.

Toh is not the first controversial resignation from the withering party. Protem secretary of Dudong branch Wong Ching Yong resigned from the party on Jan 3 this year and later join DAP. He had been with the party for 24 years and was the right hand man of Dudong branch chairman, Dr. Soon Choon Teck. His resignation stemmed from a three-year disagreement with the Sibuh branch which disallowed the Dudong branch to be registered as a branch but preferred it to be a sub-branch controlled by Sibuh.

Seven months later, on July 24, Youth chairman of Bengoh resigned with 14 others, most of them committee members. Their resignation was over the failure of the party leadership to perform and ignoring party branches grudges.

Disgruntled members who resigned were mostly due to internal conflicts. Once a formidable party formed in 1959, SUPP has to clean up its house if it wanted to remain relevant to the people and to fight against the ever-growing popularity from its arch enemy, DAP.

By not listening to the grassroots or the voters, this coming State election might see the party collapsed.

Party President Dr. Geroge Chan, who is also the Deputy Chief Minister, had said once too often that they must win at all cost. But can SUPP walk the talk when it comes to the crunch this time around?

\* The views expressed here are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the views of Malaysian Mirror and/or its associates.

Copyright © 2009 [www.malaysiamirror.com](http://www.malaysiamirror.com)

Source : <http://www.malaysianmirror.com/media-buzz-detail/6-nation/50311>