

**Jeffrey Kitingan wants strong message from Batu Sapi**  
**Malaysianmirror.com**  
**03 November 2010**

NEWS ANALYSIS Outgoing Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) vice president Jeffrey Kitingan is hoping against hope that the opposition will wrest victory from the proverbial jaws of defeat on Nov 4 in the Batu Sapi parliamentary by-election. However, he's not getting his hopes up too high while remaining cautiously optimistic.

Alternatively, the Sabah strongman would settle for the voters giving only a razor-thin margin to the Barisan Nasional (BN) and not so much to its candidate Linda Tsen of the Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS).

The razor-thin margin, according to Jeffrey, would send the ruling coalition a strong message that it cannot be business as usual in the Borneo states if BN wants to stay in the reckoning in Sabah and Sarawak.

"The BN cannot be allowed to win by default in Batu Sapi without being rapped on the knuckles at the same time," said Jeffrey who heads a list of 15 mostly divisional PKR chiefs who are "banned" from Batu Sapi by its divisional chief Hassnar Ibrahim who faces certain disciplinary action after Nov 4.

Jeffrey admitted that he wasn't able to campaign in Batu Sapi and hoped that his advice to the people will reach them in time.

The "ban" notwithstanding, he reminded that he was on a two-months leave to attend to personal and family matters, as well as to work on several concept papers on Sabah and Sarawak rights.

He has also declined 40 nominations to vie for one of the four elected PKR vice-presidential slots in the ongoing party polls.

Taking up the cudgels again, he denied that his reference to the BN possibly winning by default in Batu Sapi has suggested that one of the two opposition parties in the fray, PKR or the Sabah Progressive Party (Sapp), should have given way to the other.

It appeared that there are other reasons as well. He declined to dwell on what was "water under the bridge".

Instead, he reiterated his hope that the voters of Batu Sapi would send a strong message to the BN that they, like the rest of Sabah and Sarawak, would not continue to be taken for granted.

"Not many people have realized that the national budget of some RM 200 billion-odd for next year allocates only four per cent each to Sabah and Sarawak," said Jeffrey. "This is a pittance, very humiliating, considering the grinding poverty in these two states after years of neglect."

He questioned the wisdom of the BN neglecting the needs of the two Malaysian Borneo states which he said the ruling coalition had hailed as their electoral "Fixed Deposit" states.

He further added that was not the way to treat two states which between them contribute

54 parliamentary seats that keeps Umno in power in Putrajaya.

“There will be a price to pay for this arrogance at the forthcoming General Election.”

Jeffrey also said that he didn’t want to stress so much on Sabah and Sarawak rights in what is just a parliamentary by-election.

He felt that the issue is for the long-haul and best articulated during the General Election and across the political divide in the two states.

Still, he pointed out that there were several components of Sabah and Sarawak rights which the voters of Batu Sapi need to consider as they flock to the polling booths on Nov 4.

The first of these, he opined, was the lack of progress in the Borneonisation of the federal civil service in Sabah and Sarawak after nearly half a century of Malaysia.  
linda-tseng-batu-sapi

“Most of the top jobs and even the not so senior ones in Sabah and Sarawak are still held by people from Peninsular Malaysia,” fumed Jeffrey.

“This, more than any other aspect, proves that Sabah and Sarawak have been re-colonized by Malaya (Peninsular Malaysia) upon the departure of the British in 1963.”

Sabahans and Sarawakians were also discouraged from serving the federal government in Peninsular Malaysia, continued Jeffrey, because they are denied the regional allowances paid to Peninsular Malaysians serving in the two states.

He saw this as a deliberate attempt to discourage people from the two states from serving in the federal civil service in Peninsular Malaysia.

Still on the same vein, he touched on the extremely small number of Sabahans and Sarawakians in the diplomatic and teaching service, the Judiciary, the armed forces, the police, Petronas and the GLCs.

On federal government procurements and contracts and those from Petronas, Jeffrey claimed that very few opportunities were given to Sabahans and Sarawakians even when it came to the two states.

He allegedly said that this was due to the “sapu bersih” (clean sweep) mindset of Peninsular Malaysians who continue to lead and dominate the federal government at the expense of Sabah and Sarawak.

The Malaysia Agreement, Jeffrey recalled, had pledged that the federal government would be shared in equality and partnership between Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia (i.e. based on the notion of three territories making up the federation and not 13 states).

The thinking among the opposition was that the voters in Batu Sapi may not forgive them if they otherwise went on an offensive against Tsen, who is a lady still mourning for her late husband, Batu Sapi MP Edmund Chong, lamented Jeffrey.

“This (attacking Tsen) is a risk that the opposition feels that they cannot afford to take.”

Apparently, the “grieving widow” status of Tsen has placed the opposition in a somewhat

disadvantaged position in Batu Sapi.

Jeffrey clarified that he wasn't personally advocating for a softer line against Tsen lest he be accused of protecting PBS which is helmed by his elder brother Joseph Pairin Kitingan.

Pairin is a deputy chief minister and also Huguansiou, the paramount chief of the KadazanDusunMuruts.

Hassnar had in the past dismissed Jeffrey's politics as being all about protecting PBS based on the saying that "blood is thicker than water." Jeffrey too had dismissed Hassnar's remarks as "utter nonsense in politics".

Jeffrey co-founded PBS together with Pairin in 1985 but only joined the party in 1994, upon his release from detention under the Internal Security Act (ISA), on the eve of a snap state election.

Jeffrey has a standing invitation from Pairin, reiterated twice recently, to re-join PBS. He has rebuffed these attempts on the grounds that his old party is toothless on the matter of Sabah and Sarawak rights.

\* 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.malaysiamirror.com/media-buzz-detail/6-nation/50326>