

**Lim Says Taib Will Not Step Down Anytime Soon**  
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KUALA LUMPUR - Lim Kit Siang said that he believes Abdul Taib Mahmud will not be stepping down as Sarawak Chief Minister at any time soon as Taib merely hinted his stepping down when a suitable replacement is found.

Malaysia's longest serving Chief Minister had earlier announced "I will lead this election so that new blood can come up, but after that, when the people I have groomed can form a new team and can work for this country, for the people of various races, and that these people can work as part of a team, then I will call it a day".

Lim is taking Taib's statement to task and said "It is still a long way to go before Taib is ready to hand over the reins of Sarawak state government to his successor - as he himself has outlined the many steps that must be taken before he could contemplate relinquishing the post of Sarawak Chief Minister, including (to) form "a new team" to run the state government and (to) ensure that the new team can "work as part of a team"."

"This means Taib will have no qualms to continue as Sarawak Chief Minister for instance if he is not satisfied that he has got a "new team" that could work for the country or he is not assured that the new team could "work as part of a team"." he continued.

The fiery speaker said that this process could be for an indefinite period of time.

Lim added that Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak had merely echoed Taib's wishes when he said he respects Taib's desire to quit politics but cautioned that Taib should not be pressured to quit.

"As there is not only no successor at present but the new team has yet to be formed and tested, Taib's stepping down as Sarawak Chief Minister is far into the distant horizon." Lim predicts.

The DAP veteran said that this was clearly a political ploy to counter and neutralise what he labels "Sarawak Barisan Nasional's Achilles' heel" in the upcoming Sarawak state general election which is the fact that Taib had overstayed as Sarawak Chief Minister.

"It will be known soon enough whether Sarawak voters are so gullible that such a political ploy and bluff can work so as to return Taib for another term as Sarawak Chief Minister." he said.

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