

Two reasons why Umno gave Tapah to MIC

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TAPAH: The concept of power sharing and social contract are the reasons why Barisan Nasional gave up the Malay-majority Tapah parliamentary seat to the MIC.

Responding to a resolution by Tapah Umno division for the constituency to be returned to Umno, Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Tajol Rosli Ghazali said he had expected the topic to be hotly debated by delegates of the division.

"Personally, I can understand the feelings of the division members especially when there are far more Malay voters in the constituency," he said when opening the Tapah Umno division meeting here yesterday.

"But it is inappropriate for me to put aside the concept of power sharing and the social contract agreed to by the various races."

He said it was not wrong for the division to raise the matter but it was up to Barisan chairman Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to make a decision.

Tajol Rosli noted that although the MIC did not have an Indian majority seat, there were constituencies that Barisan could lose if it did not obtain the support of the MIC.

MIC vice-president Datuk S. Veerasingam is currently the MP for Tapah.