

Adenan: Taking PBB And BN Sarawak To Greater Heights
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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 28 (Bernama) -- As Tan Sri Adenan Satem takes over as the new chief minister of Sarawak effective today, the Land of the Hornbills is set to see a new era in its political landscape.

How is Adenan going to steer Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) and Sarawak Barisan Nasional (BN)? Would he follow the course set by his predecessor Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud during his 33 year tenure as the chief minister.

Adenan has lots to do in closing ranks within his own party and find a solution for BN's squabbling component members.

KEEPING PBB INTACT AND BN UNITED

While many political analysts and politicians in the state believe the state administration will be very much remain the same, Adenan's style of leadership will be keenly watched.

Would Adenan rule like his predecessor and keep PBB as a powerful political entity?

As pointed out by Dr Suffian Mansor, a senior lecturer with Universiti Malaysia Sarawak's ([UNIMAS](#)) Faculty of Social Sciences, though Adenan inherited a strong PBB, which was formed following the merger of Parti Pesaka and Parti Bumiputera in 1972, keeping the party intact is important.

"He has to come out with good strategies to harmonise the problems in the state. There is a need to cool down the party supporters of certain leaders," he told Bernama in an interview.

There were some disenchantment within the party when Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Alfred Jabu, who is also Deputy President I of PBB, a Dayak was not picked as the successor to Taib.

Unlike other political parties where leadership succession is based on the party hierarchy, PBB's leadership is decided by the parliamentary caucus consisting of parliament members, state assemblyman and senators from the party.

However, based on the fact that from the 14 parliamentarian, only four are from Pesaka (two Dayak, one Bidayuh and another Lun Bawang) while from the 35 state assemblymen, only nine are from Pesaka putting Jabu in a disadvantage.

"While Jabu was not picked up due to the party caucus system, Adenan still needs to cool down this issue. We don't see Jabu as a problem but there is still an urgent need to look into this from the Pesaka's perspective and the sentiment of the Dayak community," he added.

SPDP AND SUPP

Not only that, by assuming the position of Chief Minister, Adenan inherited many of the outstanding issues within state BN components such as the problems within Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP) and Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP).

"While SPDP seems to be making some progress towards reconciliation between the two factions within the party, this cannot be said for SUPP.

"Even if you can solve the long standing SUPP internal dispute, the next Herculean task will be wooing back the Chinese voters," explained Suffian.

Adenan after being named as the Chief Minister-designate, has openly expressed his hope of solving the prolonged SPDP and SUPP internal squabble.

SPDP President Tan Sri William Mawan seems to heed Adenan's call by extending the olive branch to the five leaders - four state assemblyman and one former member of parliament - sacked from the party in late 2011.

The five are Datuk Peter Nansian Ngusie, Datuk Sylvester Entri Muran, Rosey Yunus, Paulus Palu Gumbang and Datuk Dr Tiki Lafe.

However, SUPP, the oldest political party in the state, seems to be going no where with the faction headed by party president Datuk Seri Peter Chin Fah Kui and former deputy secretary-general and current senior state minister in charge of Local Government and Community Development Datuk Seri Wong Soon Koh still at loggerheads.

DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE ADENAN's ABILITY

On Adenan's leadership style, former PBB vice-president Datuk Salleh Japaruddin said; "As a trained lawyer, his political approach is guided by legal ethics, like how in court you fight your opponent and outside you are friends. This is his approach".

Knowing Adenan since their early days in politics, Salleh said Adenan is also a good negotiator, observant listener, a convincing speaker and an experienced risk taker.

"While he is known as Taib's loyalist from the early days, he has the brain and experience. The first three months after taking over the leadership will be very crucial and important to him," he added.

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