

**Let's work together to keep Umno out of Sarawak, DAP tells state BN component parties**  
**Malaysian Insider**

**Feb 12, 2014**

**BY DESMOND DAVIDSON**

DAP Sarawak has urged the component parties in the state Barisan Nasional (BN) to work together with Pakatan Rakyat (PR) to ensure that Umno is kept out of Sarawak.

Its chairman Chong Chieng Jen (pic) wants a motion passed in the state legislative assembly that would keep Umno from trying to come into the state.

Following the statements by Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud "to keep Sarawak for Sarawakians" and from Minister of Rural and Regional Development Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal that "Umno stays out of the state", Chong said the only thing that needs to be done now is to put this into writing and to formalise this arrangement.

"The fact that Umno is not wanted in Sarawak has long been in existence.

"I was suspended from the state legislative assembly simply because I likened (Housing Minister Datuk Amar) Abang Johari to Umno politicians, saying that he acts like an Umno politician.

"My suspension bears testimony that Umno is so repulsive to Sarawakians that even to accuse someone of being like an Umno politician, got me suspended from DUN Sarawak," Chong said of his suspension on the second last day of the assembly sitting last November.

Chong, who is also the Bandar Kuching MP, said the rejection of Umno by Sarawakians is not so much of it being a West Malaysia-based party but because of its brand of, what he called, the "3R" politics - playing up the issues of "race, religion and rulers".

"Such politics have no place in Sarawak," he added.

On the open admission by Sarawak BN leaders that Umno is not welcomed in the state, Chong said: "Word of mouth and comments in the media by ministers (Shafie Apdal and Ahmad Zahid) have no force of law."

He said if the cabinet's 10-point solution was not adhered to by some government departments, "what more to say, mere media statements by some ministers".

"Nothing short of a formal motion tabled and passed in DUN Sarawak will ensure that Umno will not come into Sarawak.

"If Sarawak BN is serious about keeping Umno out, this is the most opportune time to have such a motion tabled in the state assembly.

"A special assembly sitting can even be convened specifically to have such a motion tabled and passed for the benefit of all Sarawakians," Chong said.

He said even as his earlier motion in the assembly to reject Umno was not accepted by the BN in the previous sitting, "we in DAP will nevertheless put aside partisan politics and support any motion tabled by BN to reject Umno in Sarawak".

The Dayak National Congress (DNC), a non-governmental organisation, also yesterday supported the statement by the state BN secretary-general Datuk Dr Stephen Rundi on Sunday, saying that the state government would protect Sarawak's rights under the Malaysia Agreement and the interests of the state bumiputera without any interference from Umno. – February 12, 2014.

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