

**DAP Demeans Sarawak Bumiputeras' Sacrifices, Says BN Backbencher**  
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KUCHING, May 9 (Bernama) -- The DAP has demeaned the sacrifices of Sarawak's Bumiputeras, while hiding the facts about government policies that have benefited the Chinese in the state all this while, Sarawak Barisan Nasional Backbenchers Club chairman, Abdullah Saidol said, here, today.

He said Chong Chieng Jen (DAP-Kota Sentosa)'s argument that the government needed to change its policies in order to win back Chinese support showed that the opposition failed to see what had actually taken place in the state.

Debating on the motion of thanks for the head of state's address at the recent opening of the state assembly, he said while the opposition wanted annual grants of between RM20 million and RM30 million for Chinese schools, the government for the last three years had channelled RM133 million for the cause.

"That (the total amount) accounts for about RM44 million per year and that is already more than what is asked by the opposition," he said.

Abdullah said the majority of the Bumiputeras in the state, especially in the rural areas, subscribed to the government's policy of wealth sharing to enable the other communities to prosper as well.

Speaking to reporters later, Abdullah who is also Semop assemblyman, said the Bumiputeras allowed the revenue obtained from resources extracted from their areas to be used to develop the towns such as Kuching, Sibul, Bintulu and Miri first.

"The Bumiputeras allowed the towns to be developed first as administrative or commercial centres. Who have benefited from this if not the Chinese? But the Bumiputeras felt it was okay as we wanted to work together with the Chinese," he said.

Abdullah said it was never his intention to make any racist remark at the assembly but merely to state the true facts to rebut the opposition's allegation that the government was not doing enough for the Chinese.

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