

With Pakatan 'dead', Kit Siang hopes Sarawak will keep battling for DAP, PKR

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BY SHAZWAN MUSTAFA KAMAL

KUALA LUMPUR, June 22 — Standing by his party's claim that Pakatan Rakyat (PR) no longer exists, Lim Kit Siang told Sarawak voters today that a regime change in the state is still possible although the pact will no longer function as one when state-wide polls are held.

The DAP parliamentary leader told voters that PR's Common Policy Framework (CPF) advocating national unity, justice and prosperity remains in place even with the pact dead, and expressed hope that supporters will continue to back his party and PKR.

"This can be done, if the Sarawak voters can send out a loud and unmistakable message to all Malaysians that although there is no more PR, the CPF remains valid and relevant, and that all Malaysians want good governance to be the first and foremost agenda of government," Lim said in a statement here.

"Sarawakians can send out this message in the 11th Sarawak state election if DAP can not only secure our current 12 state assembly seats and PKR their three seats, but we can also reach out to win even more Sarawak state assembly seats currently held by the Barisan Nasional (BN)," he added.

Despite acknowledging PR's troubles, Lim also noted that the pact's political foes in ruling BN were similarly in crisis.

Due to the many controversies plaguing the Najib administration, chiefly the RM42 billion 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) scandal, even leaders in Umno have expressed concern over BN's ability to survive past the next general election, the DAP MP said.

As such, Lim asserted that all was not lost for DAP and PKR in the coming Sarawak election.

DAP snapped up 12 of the 15 seats it contested during the last Sarawak election in 2011 while PKR won three of 49 seats, giving PR a total 15 seats in the 71-seat state assembly, more than double the six seats it won in the previous state polls.

The pact's performance was considered a huge breakthrough for the opposition front in Sarawak, a state long described as a BN fixed deposit.

But years later today, PR is faced with uncertainty. PAS, during its June 6 muktamar, decided to end ties with the DAP, subsequently leading to the latter party declaring the pact dead.

PKR, in an attempt to ensure the fallout between its allies does not cause the fall of the two governments that PR rules - Selangor and Penang - has since said that the spirit of the pact lives on although it no longer functions formally.

PAS, on the other hand, has continued to insist that PR still lives on.

Lim, who was first to declare PR dead after PAS's muktamar decision, noted that when the Sarawak polls are called by next August, it will be the first election after 2008 where there will no longer be a "Pakatan Rakyat comprising DAP, PKR and PAS".

This, he said, will also be the case in the 14th national general election, which must be called by 2018.

In view of this, Lim asked: "How can Sarawak voters spearhead... changes in Malaysia in the subsequent 14th federal general election?"

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