

Warisan: BN did nothing to address illegal immigration in Sabah
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Treasurer-general Terrence Siambun says the illegal immigrant and 'Project IC' issues have been ongoing since the 1990s.

PETALING JAYA: Parti Warisan Sabah treasurer-general Terrence Siambun has hit out at Sabah Barisan Nasional (BN) for alleging that illegal immigrants will take control of the state if the opposition party forms the government in the next general election.

The Moyog assemblyman said the assertion by Sabah BN backbenchers club chairman Abdul Rahim Ismail was hypocritical as the ruling BN state government itself had failed to find a permanent solution to the issue.

He said problems like “Project IC”, where thousands of foreigners were allegedly issued identity cards in the 1990s, had occurred under the watch of the BN administration.

“The illegal immigrant and Projek IC issues have been ongoing since the 1990s and Sabah BN had more than two decades to settle them,” he said.

“But what has Sabah BN achieved? Nothing!” Siambun said in a statement today.

“Thus, if Rahim is fearful that the illegal immigrants will control the state once Warisan is in power, then he should immediately inform and insist to both (Chief Minister) Musa Aman and (Prime Minister) Najib Razak for a full-scale flushing out of illegal immigrants/Projek IC holders from the state.”

He said Warisan’s stand on the issues was “crystal clear” through the party’s agenda to introduce the “Sabah Card” that would distinguish genuine Sabahans from illegal immigrants.

“So, what we have here is a very clear commitment from Warisan’s leaders, including the president (Shafie Apdal), to weed out Projek IC holders and at the same time flush out illegal immigrants in the state,” he said.

Siambun asked what Musa, who is also Sabah Umno chief, had done to address the problem since becoming chief minister in 2003.

He asked what had happened to the permanent committee for the Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCI) on illegal immigrants in Sabah that Musa and Home Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi were assigned to jointly chair in January 2015.

“The only outstanding unsurpassed record that Musa achieved during his tenure (in relation to immigrants in Sabah) is to be a CM with a drastic increase in the number of Pakistani origin citizens in the state, which has amazed everyone including our chief justice of Sabah and Sarawak, Tan Sri Richard Malanjum,” he said.

Siambun urged Rahim to contact author Chong Eng Leong for a copy of his book titled *Lest We Forget*, which implicates Musa and deputy chief minister Yahya Husin in an alleged membership drive by Umno of illegal immigrants in the mid-90s.

“Rahim should read this book and understand that the illegal immigrants, Projek IC holders and foreign nationals have already controlled the state, no thanks to none other than those named by Dr Chong Eng Leong and also to Sabah BN,” he said.

He said Warisan is committed to resolving the problem once the party is in power.

“The sovereignty of Sabah and the future of millions of genuine Sabahans are much more important than these illegal immigrants,” he said.

Rahim, who is Pantai Manis assemblyman, was quoted by FMT today as saying that he was “alarmed” over the alleged support from the illegal immigrant community for Warisan.

He claimed that in his area, illegal immigrants were telling the locals that “their time” would come when Warisan took over the state.

“Some of my members have told me that the illegal immigrants are telling them that they will rule from Papar to Bongawan if Shafie comes to power,” he said.

Shafie recently denied allegations made by some parties that Warisan has links with illegal immigrants.

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