

## **Recapture Seats From Opposition To Enable Sarawak Recover Rights**

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SIBU, Feb 20 (Bernama) -- Sarawak Barisan Nasional component parties must try to at least recapture a few seats from the opposition if not all the 31 parliamentary seats in the coming 14th General Election.

This is to enable the state government to exert its power in asserting Sarawak's right in oil and gas, part of the state's effort to recover its rights and power under the Malaysian Agreement 1963.

"We must be strong in parliament. We must try as far as possible to get 31 seats. If we cannot get 31 seats, at least we recapture a few seats from the DAP," said Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Abang Johari Tun Openg.

He said, winning the seats was no longer in the interest of all the component parties namely Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB), Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP), Party Rakyat Sarawak and Progressive Democratic Party (PDP) but in the interest of the people of Sarawak.

Abang Johari, who is also Sarawak Barisan Nasional chairman, said this during a Chinese New Year celebration organised by SUPP SibU at the SibU Civic Centre today.

In the 13th General Election, DAP won five seats namely Bandar Kuching, Stampin, Sarikei, Lanang, SibU while Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) won the Miri seat, all predominantly Chinese urban seats.

The chief minister said, BN could win the seats if all of the component parties adopted inclusive policy and to work hard so that the people knew they were united and the hard work was meant for them.

It was proven when BN through SUPP won Batu Kitang and Batu Kawa, state constituencies marked as black areas in the 11th State Election in 2016.

Abang Johari said, nobody could fight for Sarawak's right but the Sarawakians themselves and unlike the opposition, the presidents of BN component parties in the state were Sarawakians.

"Who is DAP's president? How many Sarawakians are there in its Central Executive Committee? Only one...how to fight for Sarawak?, he asked.

On SUPP, he said its secretary-general Prof Datuk Dr. Sim Kui Hian had managed to revive it to become the strong party it used to be.

Its members must all set aside their differences and fully back Dr. Sim's leadership in order for the party to win its seats in the GE14.

On Sibü development, Abang Johari said it could be revamped into a better place to catch up other major towns in Sarawak if it is within the BN.

With Sibü and Lanang parliamentary seats being represented by the opposition, it would be difficult to do so, he added.

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