

‘Make enforcement agencies only answer parliament, not PM’

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By: David Thien

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“Whether that is true or not, because of the lack of transparency the public will be left speculating,” said former Sabah Law Society (SLS) President Datuk Roger Chin.

He was speaking at a NGO Sabar–Kopi Tiam council podcast recently on “Why is Sabah Struggling? Unpacking GLCs, Corruption & Lost Billions”.

He said to enjoy full public confidence there must be non-interference by notifications in enforcement agencies and those like the MACC cannot be answerable to whoever is the Prime Minister but to parliament.

“If it is parked under the Prime Minister’s Department, it means that investigations are under the discretion of the Prime Minister.

“Parliament should be empowering our enforcement agencies. Going back to our State Water Department case, you had people charged but some got off by returning part of the loot.

“In no country in the world, whether you are turning Crown witness or witness for the prosecution, would you be let off.

“You get a reduced sentence instead. You still need to go to jail, but for a slightly lesser time. But Malaysia Boleh. Sabah Boleh. I just need to pay back some of what I took and I am off completely by becoming state witness. There is something wrong there. When you have this sort of thing going on, there will be this perception that there is political interference. Politicians must stay out and not exert any pressure on the enforcement agencies.”

He said this goes for the judiciary as well. “Don’t mess with the Judiciary.

“If you let the enforcement agencies and judiciary do their work, you will find Malaysia in a much better place.”

He cited neighbour Singapore’s zero tolerance for corruption.

“Malaysia was way ahead of everybody in Southeast Asia for a very long time.

“I give you an example, the Malaysia Singapore Airlines or MSA. Basically was Malaysia Airlines. When Singapore split from Malaysia, what happened was we got practically all of MSA.

“Singapore was left with nothing. What has happened in the 50 years, 60 years that followed? Where is Malaysia Airlines and where is Singapore Airlines?”

“Fifty years ago, Hong Kong was nothing. We had Sabahans who would be buying up property in Hong Kong because it was so cheap for them.

“They made so much money in Sandakan from timber that they would buy a lot of property in Hong Kong. I knew of Sabahans who would have like 10, 20 apartments in Hong Kong’s Causeway Bay, which is real prime real estate now worth 10 million Hong Kong dollars each. They were like nothing 50 years ago.

“Taiwan was certainly nothing. It was probably just paddy fields. A lot of agriculture land. Korea was nowhere.

“We have reached a point where we are behind many other countries.”

This year, Malaysia is the chair of Asean and I doubt we can catch up with many of them like Thailand. Even Vietnam may soon go past us.

“Indonesia, in a few years would have overtaken us. Cambodia is also flying very high.”

He said what Malaysia with corruption and flawed policies would be left to compete with places like Myanmar and the Philippines.

“All they need to do is to get a right leader like Jokowi who can rally the troops together and they will fly because they have everything to make it much better than what they are.

“You know who is behind us by looking at who is working in our restaurants. Filipinos and some Indonesians, but not for long. The real story is whether our children will be maids in another country. Hence, he said, Malaysia cannot afford to waste any more time on a lot of corruption cases,” he said.

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"Sabah Voices to Action - Shaping Sabah's Future Together" is a citizen-driven, non-partisan initiative running from March to June 2025, dedicated to amplifying Sabahans' voices, fostering meaningful discussions, and shaping policies on education, healthcare, public infrastructure, and good governance.

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Together, we can build a stronger, more inclusive Sabah!

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GRS not desperate to form alliances

Jonathan Nicholas

KOTA KINABALU: Gabungan Rakyat Sabah (GRS) is not desperate to form political alliances, said Darau Parti Gagasan Rakyat Sabah (Chief Datuk Razali Kazi).

GRS' primary focus remains on delivering results for Sabah, he added.

"The formula we have right now is working and we are not in need of anyone else," he said referring to the existing GRS and Pakatan Harapan Plus alliance.

"Whether others want to join us or not, our focus is to work and deliver on our promises. We are not fantasising or playing games in the media.

"We are simply walking the talk and focusing on what's good for the people of Sabah. At the end of the day, the people will decide," he said.

He was addressing recent remarks by Sabah Umno's Datuk Suhaimi Nasir calling

GRS a "fragment" of past political forces.

Razali emphasised that the creation of GRS was based on the needs and aspirations of the people of Sabah who are seeking change.

"We are not interested in past glory... We are striving to achieve progress based on the Sabah Maju Jaya roadmap. This is new politics, one based on local needs. Our priority has always been the people's welfare."

"We listened and formed a new party based on local content. That's our simple equation. GRS embraces inclusivity and does not believe in labelling others. Instead, we recognise and appreciate good people, regardless of background," he said.

Razali said what's important now for Sabah is continuity, and to ensure that, the state must have stability.

"That's why we need a strong government. Right now, we have a functioning,

realistic administration, not built on illusions. Sabah Maju Jaya gives us clear direction, and above all, our shared objective is for the people of Sabah. It's that simple," he said. He was met at the division's Adikadha programme on Thursday where packs of kelupis (glutinous rice rolls) and accompanying rendang were distributed to 1,000 people.

According to him, 200 members have worked day and night to prepare the meals. Next in the agenda, he said was to visit those on the welfare list and delivering their special needs.

"Gagasan Rakyat Darau has been working consistently since the start, not only nearing election. We have a culture of good practice and never tire of this because it is rooted in sincerity. The outcome is genuine smiles from the beneficiaries," he said, adding that Darau has over 32,000 voters.



Razali (3rd from left) and others during the kelupis preparations

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'Explain 12 MoUs worth RM20b under Warisan' call

KOTA KINABALU:

Moyog Gagasan Rakyat Youth Chief

Lee Ka Lik (pic) slammed Elopura

Assemblyman Calvin Chong's criticism of

the RM1 billion Estel steel project, accusing

him of hypocrisy and demanding answers

about Warisan's own unfulfilled investment

promises.

In a statement, here, Thursday, Lee

challenged Calvin to first explain what

happened to 12 memorandums of

understanding worth RM20 billion that

former Chief Minister Datuk Seri Shafie

Apdal signed with Chinese companies in

April 2019.

"Until today, nobody knows which

companies were involved, which projects

were implemented, how much investment

materialised or how many jobs were cre-

ated from those MoUs," Lee said, criticising

the lack of public reporting on the

deals.

He contrasted this with the current

administration's handling of the Estel

project, saying it has been transparent

from the beginning with clear disclosure

of investors and regulatory processes.

"The difference is crystal clear. GRS-PH

Plus is delivering real investments with

transparency, not just signing MoUs for

photo opportunities," Lee said.

He accused Warisan of being unable to

