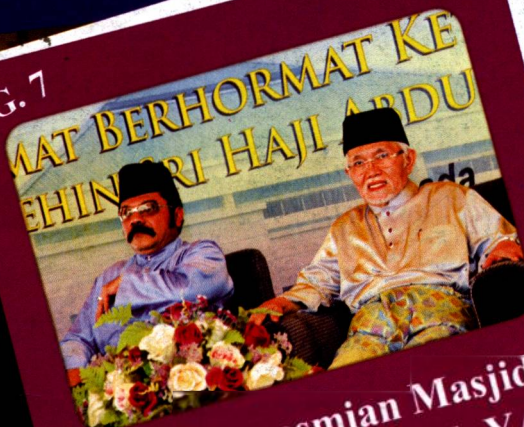


**UiTM SARAWAK
CELEBRATES SUCCESS
AT THE INVENTION,
INNOVATION AND
DESIGN COMPETITION,
2009**

PG. 22

PG. 7



**Majlis Perasmian Masjid
Al Qarrawiyyin Oleh YAB
Pehin Sri Ketua Menteri**

PG. 10



**Forum Pasca Pilihan Raya
ke 12**

■ **UiTM Sarawak
Conference** PG. 4
2008

■ **Diploma Show:
Pelajar Grafik**
PG. 34

■ **UiTM Sarawak At
The International
Level** PG. 40

PASCA PILIHAN RAYA KE 12

Perubahan dan Hala Tuju Politik Malaysia: Perspektif Sarawak dan Sabah



UiTM Sarawak has successfully organized the "Pasca Pilihan Raya ke 12" political forum on 29th August, 2008. It was held in conjunction with the Merdeka month celebration with the theme "Changes and Directions of Malaysian Politics: Sarawak and Sabah Perspectives".



Dr. Neilson Ian Mersat of UNIMAS talks about democratization and the power and influence of the young voters in paving for the future political development in Malaysia. He believes that is normal for any country to experience such stage of democracy when citizens have been provided with an openness to express their rights and freedom. To keep abreast with the power and influence of young voters, Dr. Neilson has said that politicians must now start to address the complex and sophisticated issues among young urban elites through internet accessibility.



The event was made successful by the joint effort of the Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies (FSPPP) and the Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) programs. The forum was held at the newly completed premise of Islamic Information Center at Jalan Ong Tiang Swee, Kuching. It was attended by more than 300 people including some members of the State Legislative Assembly, members of some major political parties, heads of government departments, lecturers, staff and students.

The event was official launched by the Director of UiTM Sarawak Campus, Associate Professor Dr. Jamil Haji Hamali.

Amongst the panel speakers were YB Tuan Hj Bolhassan B Hj Di, the Assistant Minister of Information Technology and Assistant Minister of Infrastructure Development and Communication. Other speakers were UiTM Sabah Campus Director, Associate Professor Dr Worrnan Hj Kabul, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) Head of Politics and International Relation Department Dr Neilson Ian Mersat, and UiTM Sarawak lecturer Encik Abg Yusuf Abg Spawi. Prof. Dr. Abdul Rahman Deen took the stage as chairman.

Looking into the current political development, the theme of the forum was very timely. The issues, amongst others were complexities related to racial politics, openness of current leadership, young voters trend, service and development delivery, media delivery and issues of the just-concluded Permatang Pauh by-election.

The Assistant Minister, YB Tuan Hj Bolhassan Hj Di has reaffirmed that elected representatives must always be near to the people if they want to stay in power. He himself, for one is always advocating to the principles of maintaining relevancy and connectivity. He said that "the elected representatives must be visible and audible to the people they lead". He also stressed that "promises must be fulfilled with urgency to maintain that kind of connectivity with the people". He further stressed that complacency kills.

The Assistant Minister could not make believe that the political tsunami that has hard hit the West Malaysian counterpart will hit Sarawak or Sabah. He said that the last general parliamentary election's result showed that the people in these two states were still attached to the Barisan Nasional government. He pointed out, "The BN win also showed that the people in Sarawak still trusted the BN to deliver development projects, especially in the rural areas. The people of Sarawak still want BN to continue ruling them...unlike the majority of the people in Selangor, Perak, Penang, and Kedah which has fallen into the hands of Pakatan Rakyat alliance".

On the current issues of the social contract and the rights of the Malays, YB Tuan Hj Bolhassan said that the issues should not to be debated anymore as it has been properly enshrined in the Federal Constitution. It was also related to citizenship issue prior to the proclamation of Independence in 1957 in the then Malay States of Malaya. To do so today would endanger the stable government and disrupt the racial harmony and unity which Malaysian had been enjoying all these while. Citizens will not want to see the infamous May 13, 1969 riot to happen again.

The Assistant Minister insisted that the "people who want to open up the social contract are only asking for trouble. I rather keep it, maintain it and everybody will be happy".

On multiracialism, Dr Neilson said that contrary to West Malaysia, this is not an issue in Sarawak as the latter has always been politically and socially multi-racial from day one.

Responding to questions from the floor, Dr. Neilson also stressed that the Malaysian former premier, like Singapore Lee Kuan Yew was less open to liberal democracy, and in fact saw it as a trading-off point between freedom and development.

Associate Professor, Dr. Worrnan Hj Kabul of UiTM Sabah has the same opinion that, like Sarawak, the people in Sabah needs physical development, and all these while has been very open to multiracialism. The issue of crossing over of politicians from one party to another is not new phenomena in Sabah.

Abg Yusuff Abg Spawi stressed the importance of grassroot supporters in the rural setting. Although this group is fragile and subject to influences of the middle class, who normally has post-secondary education, they normally are the eyes and ears of the ruling government. Their involvement and contribution to secure the polls for the ruling government is undeniably important, and will always be relevant in rural politics.



By: Hj Saudi B Hj Narani



Universiti Teknologi MARA Sarawak,
Jalan Meranek, 94300 Kota Samarahan,
Peti Surat 1258, 93912 Kuching,
Sarawak, Malaysia.
Tel: 082-677 200 Faks: 082-677 300

<http://www.sarawak.uitm.edu.my>



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