

Headline	Yong: Don't use coal excuse to rob Maliau Basin		
MediaTitle	New Sabah Times English (KK)		
Date	08 May 2019	Language	English
Circulation	11,025	Readership	33,075
Section	Home	Page No	3
ArticleSize	282 cm ²	Journalist	N/A
PR Value	RM 1,860		



Yong: Don't use coal excuse to rob Maliau Basin



FILE PHOTO ... a peaceful protest at Seguntor in Sandakan against the coal-fired power plant on February 13, 2009. Also present at the occasion was the former Sandakan MP, the late Datuk Stephen Wong (6th left).

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP) has challenged UPKO President Datuk Wilfred Madius Tangau to reveal the identity of the person or persons who he claimed had met him to ask for the building of a coal-fired power plant in Sandakan.

"The best opportunity for Madius to justify a coal-fired power plant in Sandakan is at the UPKO ceramah to be held in Sandakan tomorrow (Wednesday). We shall see if the people of Sandakan support a coal-fired power plant to be built in Sandakan," said

SAPP president Datuk Yong Teck Lee.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, Yong noted that Madius had during the Sabah Legislative Assembly last month, claimed that "the same people who had protested against the coal-fired power plant proposal in the past have now appealed to him to build a coal plant".

The Deputy Chief Minister cum Minister of Industrial Development, Datuk Madius, was justifying the need for a coal-fired power plant which produces cheaper energy.

"I hereby challenge Datuk Madius to reveal the names of the person(s) whom he claimed to have done a U-turn and now supports the coal-fired power plant," said Yong.

The then federal government and Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) had first proposed in 2007 to build a coal-fired power plant in Sabah. But this coal plant proposal failed the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) in March 2008.

In view of objections from the then Sabah government,

the federal government was forced to cancel the entire coal plant proposal in 2011.

"As a result, Sabah is now benefiting from our own natural gas energy generation which is cleaner and cheaper than coal.

"Finally, I warn the government not to use the excuse of a coal-fired power plant to exploit the pristine Maliau Basin, where our coal reserves are found, and along the way rob the virgin jungle, steal the timber and destroy our natural heritage," Yong concluded. — *By Michael Teh*