

# Court ruling upholding Undi18 'a big step in right direction' — Kuching PKR Women

**KUCHING:** The High Court ruling ordering the government to implement the constitutional amendment to lower the voting age from 21 to 18 (Undi18) by Dec 31 this year should be welcoming news to the youth wings of political parties across all divides.

In stating this, Cherishe Ng who is the Kuching branch chief of Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) Women, regarded the latest development as 'a big step in the right direction', in that it would allow 125,000 to 135,000 youths in Sarawak to vote in the next state election, which should be called upon the lifting of the Emergency Order on Sarawak next year.

Adding on, she regarded the implementation of Undi18 as being 'long overdue'.

"There's absolutely no compelling reason as to why it was delayed in the first place, especially since the Bill was passed bipartisan back in July 2019," she told The Borneo Post here.

Ng also said the implementation of Undi18 must not be characterised as being a political tool for any party; rather, it meant as a platform for the youths to have a say in the governance of their own state and country.

"I have stated before, the contradictions when our DUN (State Legislative Assembly) passed a Bill late last year having amended the Sarawak Constitution, would allow for any Sarawakian aged 18 and above to stand as a candidate in the local state election; but



Cherishe Ng

without the implementation of Undi18, they could not vote."

Ng said this was a legal anomaly and a patent inconsistency in recognising the rights of youths.

"This was not brought up in the previous government and without UndiSarawak and Undi18 taking an active legal proceeding against the government, we would not see the light of this decision at all. So, big kudos to the team for taking the steps in the right direction."

Ng also said with the Kuching High Court's decision on Undi18 implementation by this Dec 31, she hoped that the federal government, the Election Commission and the Prime Minister - all of whom were named as respondents - would not appeal against this ruling.

"It is a testament to the reign of our new Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, testing his sincerity as a prime minister for all Malaysians.

"After all, he says he is all for 'Keluarga Malaysia' (Malaysian Family) - surely, this must include our nation's youths," stressed Ng.