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PM-Candidates

MAHATHIR ENDORSES SARAWAK BN CANDIDATES

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he endorses all the prospective Barisan Nasional (BN) candidates vying for the 62 Sarawak State Assembly seats in the state elections on September 7 and 8.

Dr Mahathir who is also the BN chairman said the final list of candidates was submitted to him by Sarawak Chief Minister, Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud during a one-hour meeting at his office here today. Nomination day is next Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters after calling on Argentinian President Carlos Menem at the Shangri-La Hotel here today, Dr Mahathir said: "I have agreed on the list of prospective candidates for BN, including several new faces."

He said he was confident that the list would not be amended because, "I agreed to all of them (name of candidates) submitted by Tan Sri Taib who is Sarawak BN chairman."

Also present during the courtesy call on Menem was Rural Development Minister, Datuk Annuar Musa, who is Minister-in-Attendance.

Meanwhile in KUCHING, Taib said on his return from Kuala Lumpur after meeting Dr Mahathir that: "Everything is well."

Taib also said Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) will swap seat with Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS), that is the PBB will stand in Kedup and PBDS in Belaga.

The candidates for both seats will be local residents, he added.

He also confirmed the distribution of six new seats will be based on the ratio 3:1:1:1 that is PBB will take three seats, while PBDS, Parti Kebangsaan Sarawak (SNAP) and Parti Rakyat Bersatu Sarawak (SUPP) will each take one seat.

PBB has been allotted Samariang, Nangka and Jepas, PBDS (Kedup), SUPP (Senadin) and SNAP (Ba'Kelalan). -- BERNAMA

ZAB AHM AO