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Sarawak-Election

S'WAK CM TO CONSULT PM ON STATE ELECTION

KUCHING, July 27 (Bernama) -- Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud will consult Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the date of dissolution of the Sarawak State Assembly, a Sarawak Barisan Nasional (BN) spokesman said today.

However, Datuk Adenan Satem did not say when Taib would meet the Prime Minister, who is BN chairman.

The state BN components had settled the question of seat allocation for the next state election, said Adenan, who is Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) vice-president.

Speaking to reporters after the Sarawak BN Supreme Council meeting at the PBB headquarters here, he said the council had reached full agreement with regard to the allocation of seats.

"Each component party will be given the privilege to nominate the candidate for at least one additional seat," he said in reading from a prepared statement. Taib, who is PBB president, and other Sarawak BN component party leaders had earlier left the building without speaking to reporters.

Adenan said the council had given full mandate to Taib to resolve any other matters, including the choice of candidates, on the polls.

In the meantime, all component parties -- the PBB, Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP), Sarawak National Party (SNAP) and Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS)

-- have been directed to prepare for the election.

This included the setting up of election machinery and coordinating committees among the component parties, he said.

He said the component parties were expected to submit their lists of candidates to Taib soon.

Any member of component parties found involved in anti-BN activities would be severely dealt with, including being expelled from the party, he said.

Members were expected to dissociate themselves politically from people who had been expelled or suspended by the component parties, he said.

Sarawak has been given six new state seats, bringing the number to 62.

-- BERNAMA

AHM YBY