

14/10/1999

Osu submits shortlist of poll candidates to Dr M

KOTA KINABALU, Wed. - The Barisan Nasional's 14 incumbent Members of Parliament have been shortlisted along with some new faces to contest the 20 seats in the coming general elections.

Chief Minister and Sabah BN chairman Datuk Osu Sukam said the list had been submitted to the national BN head Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Speaking to reporters after chairing the weekly Cabinet meeting today, he said: "With more than 20 names in the list, the final decision (to select who to contest) is up to the Barisan Nasional leadership."

Osu said in some constituencies three names, including incumbents, had been proposed and were shortlisted for final selection by the leadership.

The BN component parties in Sabah had submitted their respective proposed candidates to Sabah BN before the list was forwarded to Kuala Lumpur. Osu did not deny that Umno had submitted 20 names.

The BN parties in Sabah are Umno, Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP), Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), United Pasok Momogun Kadazandusun Organisation (UPKO), Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat (Akar), Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah, MCA, Gerakan and MIC.

Umno has 10 MPs, SAPP (two), LDP and UPKO has one each. The remaining six MP seats belong to Opposition Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS).

Osu neither denied nor confirmed that he was among the shortlisted candidates, again saying that it was up to the leadership to decide. Beside being Kawang assemblyman, Osu has been Papar MP for more than 15 years.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi last weekend hinted that Umno was unlikely to field serving State assemblymen in the parliamentary election.

The other Sabah assemblymen who are also MPs are former Chief Minister Datuk Salleh Tun Said (Kota Belud) and Datuk Amirkahar Tun Mustapha (Marudu), both from Umno.

Osu said in Peninsular Malaysia, it had been accepted that one should not be a MP and assemblyman at the same time.

But he agreed it would take time for such conventions to be fully acceptable to Sabah.

(END)