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Election-Moggie (P 183 Kanowit)

SIX OTHERS HAVE COLLECTED NOMINATION FORMS IN MOGGIE'S CONSTITUENCY

KANOWIT, Nov 19 (Bernama) -- Energy, Telecommunications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Amar Leo Moggie may face a different scenario here tomorrow from the last nomination day when he was returned unopposed.

Besides him, six others, including a logging camp manager have collected nomination forms to contest the Kanowit parliamentary seat.

Among the six is Keadilan candidate Tadung anak Tambi who is chairman of the party's Kanowit Branch.

The Nomination Centre is the Kanowit District Office Hall here

Locals did not rule out the possibility that some of the six could be "professional candidates" out to make a quick gain by offering to stay away from the nomination centre for a certain amount of compensation.

What if the nomination papers of all six candidates are accepted.

"The most is a reduced majority, for Moggie is now a political institution in Kanowit and it will take another "Moggie" to topple him. What more with the might of the BN machinery at his disposal," they said.

Moggie's invincibility lies in the fact that he is the president of the Party Bangsa Dayak Sarawak, a component of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's Barisan Nasional which is synonymous with "projek pemansang" --development projects -- the magic word for rural voters.

The Kanowit constituency with a total of 18,331 voters is a 90 per cent Dayak majority area and most of them are the party's supporters and at worst sympathisers.

Moggie is a veteran Federal Minister for more than 20 years and has been the undisputed wakil rakyat of Kanowit since 1974. Thus his foundation in Kanowit is rock solid.

However, Moggie's opponents think that the time had come to change him.

They said that his uncontested victory in the last election had made him indifferent to the people and had made him lose his common touch and his visits to his constituency had been infrequent.

With the exception of the Keadilan candidate where the party had co-ordinated its state and federal issues in its manifesto, there is really no issue for the rest to capitalize on in derailing Moggie.

Kanowit is after all a well taken care of constituency, thanks to the other two equally dynamic BN representatives in the persons of the Assistant Minister of Rural Development Datuk Gramong Juna and Gabriel Adit Demong the assemblymen for the Machan and the Ngemah state constituencies respectively.

It is here that the first commercial oil palm plantation on native customary right land in Sarawak has been successfully established.

This has been the most significant recent development which has generated job and business opportunities for the land owners concerned.

And life is much better now for them and during festivals like Gawai Dayak and Christmas, the Dayaks had advanced to beer and imported liquor rather than the humble " Tuak" , the traditional rice wine.

--BERNAMA.

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