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### Three incumbents decline nomination

Azran Aziz; Jason Gerald; Pritam Singh

KUANTAN, Wed. - Three of the 28 incumbent State Assemblymen from Umno have declined to be renominated to make way for young blood.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob said this today, adding that the State Umno had proposed at least eight new faces for the State seats, including replacements for the three who had offered to step down voluntarily.

"The tentative list was discussed with Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Monday," he said.

Commending the three, Adnan said this was the kind of spirit that incumbents should have.

He did not name them but two are believed to be Lanchang State Assemblyman Datuk Bahari Yahya and Tahan State Assemblywoman Datuk Rahimah Kawi.

"If more incumbents are like them, support for Umno will increase and this will contribute effectively to Barisan Nasional's strength," he said after a meeting with incumbent BN State Assemblymen.

Adnan, who is the State Umno information chief, said he could not reveal the names as the final list was still with Dr Mahathir.

"The approved list is expected to be out tomorrow," he said.

Adnan also said the list of party candidates for parliamentary seats was being handled by State Umno liaison chief Tan Sri Mohd Khalil Yaakob.

On today's meeting, he said it was to prepare the incumbents to accept the leadership's decision on their candidacy in good spirit.

"It is safe to say that between eight and 10 incumbent State Assemblymen from Umno will be dropped," he said.

In a departure from past tradition where all the incumbents will be called for a meeting during which names of those renominated will be announced, Adnan said only those who made the list would be called this time.

Meanwhile, MCA is said to have finalised its candidates for the eight State seats allocated to the party.

It is believed that the only casualty would be Biaw Nga (Teras) who is expected to be replaced by Raub MCA Youth chief Chan Choon Fah, 43 who is a senior assistant at SRJK (C) Sungai Ruan in Raub.

The six to be retained are Datuk Kan Tong Leong (Teruntum), Datuk Law Kee Long (Cameron Highlands), Ti Lian Ker (Bandar Indera Mahkota), Lau Lee (Damak), Ho Khai Mun (Bilut) and Fong Koong Huee (Ceka).

For Triang, the party will be fielding its Temerloh deputy chief Tang Fook Loke to take on the incumbent from DAP, Leong Ngah Ngah.

As for the three MCA parliamentary seats, party deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek will defend the Bentong seat and Fu Ah Kiow, Mentakab.

Wanita MCA chief Dr Ng Yen Yen will take over from Datuk Teng Gaik Kwan in Raub.

MIC is expected to field a new face in Sabai, the only party seat in the State. The incumbent is State MIC chief R. Sinnathamby.

Although four names have been mentioned, the most likely candidate is State MIC Youth chief R. Gunasegaran, 35.

He is the headmaster of SRJK (T) Karmen Estate in Triang and also Bera district councillor.

Incumbent Ketari State Assemblyman Datuk Loke Koon Kam, who is the sole Gerakan representative in the State, is likely to be retained.

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