

Political hopefuls getting desperate

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MIRI: Internal dissent has surfaced among certain Barisan Nasional component parties in several constituencies as political aspirants make last-minute attempts to make it as candidates in the coming state elections.

Although the Barisan has finalised its list for the 62 seats, desperate political hopefuls are trying to create enough noise to garner public attention so that they would be noticed by their leaders.

Two days ago, a group of long-house chiefs in Marudi state constituency protested against the renomination of Sarawak National Party (SNAP) assemblyman Sylvester Entri Mulan.

The unhappy party members handed a protest letter to SNAP president Datuk Amar James Wong Kim Min.

Sarawak Chief Minister and state Barisan chairman Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said, last week that Barisan had finalised its candidates and would be seeking the approval of Prime Minister

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad soon.

A former assemblyman said such internal dissent was prevalent and expected before any election.

A retired politician here said it was during times like these that the party would be able to distinguish between loyal party members and those out for personal glory.

Marudi is not the only constituency affected by internal dissent. Telang Usan is another. This semi-rural seat is held by incumbent independent state assemblyman Keding Wan.

Wan defeated Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) candidate Robert Laing Anyi in the 19% state polls by 517 votes.

Laing has again been renominated by Barisan to contest in Telang Usan, but a PBB aspirant in the constituency had lobbied for months to replace him.

The latter has been attending gatherings graced by senior Barisan leaders, with the hope that he would be noticed.