

# Taib: Candidates' list unlikely to be changed

Nst - 3 SEP 2001

BEKENU (Miri division), Sun. — The list of Barisan Nasional candidates for the forthcoming State election that was submitted to BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad recently is unlikely to be revised.

State BN chairman Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said the list was "as good as final" and that appeals from those not included in the list would not be entertained.

"Let them (those aspiring to become candidates) lobby... I am not going to be influenced by lobbying, but I will listen to party decisions and sentiments from the ground," he said.

Taib was asked to comment on the action of certain BN politicians who were said to be seeking the people's referendum as a last attempt to contest under the BN ticket in the coming polls.

Certain BN supporters were also said to have tendered petitions to the president of Sarawak National Party (SNAP) Datuk Amar James Wong recently demanding incumbent State Assemblyman for Marudi Sylvster Entrie be replaced.

Certain groups in Bukit Benangan constituency, a seat currently held by Parti Bansa Dayak

Sarawak (PBDS), also demanded former Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Daniel Tajem to contest instead of incumbent Mong Dagang.

Tajem, the former Malaysian High Commissioner to New Zealand, won the deputy president's post in PBDS early this year.

In his response to the demand, Tajem said he would let PBDS president Datuk Amar Leo Moggie, Taib and Dr Mahathir decide on the matter.

In Meluan constituency, incumbent Geman anak Itam who was not picked to defend the seat by SNAP was rumoured to be wanting to contest as independent.

Meanwhile, in the SUPP constituency of Meradong, senior party leader Thomas Hii, who was not picked to contest, is rumoured to be wanting to contest as an independent.

Taib will announce the final list of the BN candidates after the dissolution of the State Legislative Assembly expected tomorrow.

Taib will be having an audience with the head of State Tun Abang Muhammad Salahuddin at 10am in the Astana Negri tomorrow to advise the later on the dissolution.