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BN confident of people's support

n Siang; Sarban Singh; Sulok Tawie; Sajahan Waheed
KUCHING, Mon. - The State Barisan Nasional is confident that it has the people's continued support in the coming polls.

In the 1996 State election, BN won all but five of the 62 State seats contested and in the 1999 parliamentary election, BN won all 28 seats.

State BN chairman and Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud announced the dissolution of the 62-member State Legislative Assembly today, and said it had been a tradition for the people of Sarawak to give undivided support to BN in every election.

"No one will be able to predict a 100 per cent victory, but I am hopeful," he said.

The 1999 parliamentary election would serve as a yardstick for a coalition victory in the coming election.

In 1996, the State Assembly was dissolved on Aug 15 and polling was conducted over two days from Sept 7.

Nomination day was on Aug 27, 1996.

On nomination day itself, BN was already celebrating its victory when candidates won 19 seats uncontested, including the Chief Minister in Asajaya.

In the coming election, Taib is contesting in Balingian.

The BN victory in the 19 seats put the State coalition of four parties on course for a landslide win in the election.

It went on to win 57 seats, while DAP won three and two seats went to independent candidates.

In an election petition filed by BN later, the DAP victory for the Kidurong seat was declared null and void.

A by-election was held and the seat was won by BN-SUPP.

One of the DAP assemblymen left the party early this year and is now an Independent member.

The composition of the assembly now stands as BN (58), Independent (three) and DAP (one).

The number of seats held by BN comprises of PBB (29), SUPP (14), PBDS (8) and SNAP (7).

Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) is headed by Taib, and forms the backbone of the State BN Government.

Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr George Chan Hong Nam is president of the Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP).

Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) is headed by Federal Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Leo Moggie, while Sarawak National Party (SNAP) chief is State Environment and Public Health Minister Datuk James Wong Kim Min.

Taib met national BN chief and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Kuala Lumpur on Aug 28 to discuss the BN's final candidates' list for the coming election.

(END)