11 JUL 2001
Yong-Likas
LET LIKAS PEOPLE DECIDE, SAYS YONG

    KOTA KINABALU, July 11 (Bernama) -- Former Sabah chief minister Datuk
Yong Teck Lee said today that he will take it as a compliment if anyone
objects to his candidacy during tomorrow's nomination for the Likas state
by-election.
    The Barisan Nasional (BN) candidate said it would only worry him if no
one was interested to object because that would show that he was not a
strong candidate.
    "If there is no objection whatsoever that means none of the candidates
are worried about my candidacy...objection during nomination day is part of
the procedure, it is very normal," he told reporters here after being named
as the BN candidate for the by-election on July 21.
    Yong said: "For them to try so hard to prevent me from contesting, I
feel complimented and now that the legal hurdles are over...all the
political parties and other politically inclined personalities should now
go on to the Likas battleground and let the people of Likas decide."
    Yong, the president of Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP), also thanked BN
chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Sabah BN chairman Datuk Chong
Kah Kiat for giving him the mandate to defend the seat.
    To a question, Yong said BN's chances of winning the seat were good as
the coalition had been serving the constituents well.
    His candidacy has been welcomed by various parties, including Sabah
Umno.
    Sabah Umno deputy chairman Datuk Salleh Tun Said said Umno would give
its full support to Yong and would ensure that all Umno members eligible to
vote would cast their ballots.
    "Although Sabah Umno had expressed its wish to put up a candidate, as a
disciplined party we will abide by the decision made," he said.
    Asked on the possibility of Parti Keadilan Nasional contesting, Salleh
said BN was not bothered about who its opponents would be.
    "Our record is good and as we all know Likas has seen a lot of major
development like the Universiti Malaysia Sabah and Kota Kinabalu Industrial
Park," he said.
    -- BERNAMA
    JS YBY