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STOP RAISING ISSUE OF CANDIDATE LINEUP, SAYS DR MASING

KUCHING, Aug 26 (Bernama) -- Leaders of Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS), a component party of the Sarawak Barisan Nasional (BN), should stop raising the issue of the party's candidate lineup, its publicity chief, Datuk Dr James Jemut Masing, said today.

"As far as I am concerned, the candidate lineup is final as announced by party president Datuk Amar Leo Moggie yesterday," he told reporters after opening a contemporary ceramics exhibition on "Bunga Terung" at a gallery at the waterfront here.

He said the leaders should now close ranks and ensure that the BN won the state election.

Moggie had said that the list, which had been endorsed by the party's supreme council, was official and only awaiting endorsement from BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Moggie's announcement put to rest speculations that PBDS deputy president Datuk Daniel Tajem was attempting to make a comeback to active politics.

It also meant that Tajem will not be getting PBDS's ticket to contest in the upcoming election despite speculations that he would be replacing Mong Dagang for the Bukit Begunan state seat, which was once Tajem's stronghold for 22 years.

Moggie had also said that incumbent Datuk Sng Chee Hua (Pelagus) would be replaced by his 22-year old son, Larry, a new trend for PBDS which is to inject the youth spirit into politics.

The other PBDS incumbents retained are Dublin Unting (Batang Ai), Gabriel Adit (Ngemah), Joseph Entulu (Tamin), John Sikie Tayai (Kakus), Datuk Dr James Jemut Masing (Baleh) and Stanley Ajang (Belaga).

-- BERNAMA

FLL JK