

04 SEP 2001

Sarawak-SUPP

SUPP ANNOUNCES LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR STATE ELECTION

KUCHING, Sept 4 (Bernama) -- Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP), which today became the first Barisan Nasional (BN) component party to announce the full list of candidates for the state election, is fielding five new faces which include a woman.

SUPP president Tan Sri Dr George Chan said the list of 17 candidates was final and would be submitted today to Chief Minister and State BN chairman Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud and Prime Minister and national BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for approval.

"We hope to win all the 17 seats including two seats we lost to DAP in 1996 election," he told reporters after chairing a one-hour Central Working Committee (CWC) meeting.

The deputy chief minister reminded SUPP members to respect the party's decision and warned those who intended to stand as Independent candidates to abort their plans.

"We will sack them because BN works as a team not for the individual's interest," he said adding that SUPP members must respect party decision. Chan who is defending his Piasau seat.

The three other BN component parties are Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB), Sarawak National Party (SNAP) and Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS).

The SUPP new faces are two Political Secretaries to the Chief Minister, Lily Yong in Padungan and Daniel Ngieng in Bukit Assek.

Yong, who is Kuching branch secretary, is the party's first-ever woman candidate. She would replace incumbent Datuk Song Swee Guan.

The other new faces are former Information Department field officer Ranum Mina who would stand in Tanjung Datu, private medical practitioner Dr Jerip Susil in Bengoh and businessman and former senator Datuk Ting Check Sii in Meradong.

Sibu Municipal Council deputy chairman Vincent Goh, who lost in Pelawan in the last general election, would get another chance for the seat.

Dr Jerip would replace incumbent Willam Tanyuh, Ranum replaces veteran Datuk Ramsay Noel Jitam, and Ting replaces Thomas Hii.

Apart from Chan, the party is also banking on incumbents such as a state minister and several assistant ministers to defend their seats.

They are State Infrastructure and Communication Development Minister Datuk Wong Soon Koh (Bawang Assan), Datuk Sim Kheng Hui who is party secretary-general in Pending, Alfred Yap Chin Loi in Batu Kawah, Datuk David Teng (Repok) and Dr Soon Choon Teck (Dudong).

The other incumbents are Kuching South Mayor Chan Seng Khai (Batu Lintang), political secretary to the Chief Minister, Lee Kim Shin (Senadin), Michael Sim Kiam Hui (Kidurong), Francis Harden (Simanggang), Toh Eng San (Engkilili),

Nomination would be held on Sept 18 and polling on Sept 27.

-- BERNAMA

RDY AZZ AO