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SUPP first to unveil line-up

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KUCHING, Tues. - Sarawak United Peoples' Party, a State Barisan Nasional component party, today became the first party to reveal its line-up for the Sept 27 State election.

Of the 17 candidates the party is fielding, five are new faces.

Vincent Goh Chung Siong who contested the Pelawan seat but lost in the 1996 State election will be re-nominated for the same seat.

The new faces are political secretary Lily Yong Lee Lee, 52, former Information Department field officer Ranum anak Mina, 50, former State Reform Party deputy secretary-general Dr Belek @ Jerip anak Susil, former senator Datuk Ting Check Sii and political secretary Daniel Ngieng Kiong Ann.

Yong, who is SUPP's first woman candidate, will be fielded in Padungan, Ranum (Tanjung Datu), Dr Jerip (Bengoh), Ting (Meradong), and Ngieng (Bukit Assek).

The other candidates are incumbent assemblymen party president Tan Sri Dr Chan Hong Nam (Piasau), Datuk Sim Kheng Hui (Pending), Chan Seng Khai (Batu Lintang), Alfred Yap Chin Loi (Batu Kawah), Francis Harden anak Hollis (Simanggang), Toh Heng San (Engkilili), Datuk David Teng Lung Chi (Repok), Dr Soon Choon Teck (Dudong), Datuk Wong Soon Koh (Bawang Assan), Michael Sim Kiam Hui (Kidurong) and Lee Kim Shin (Senadin).

Dr Chan said the party's Central Working Committee today endorsed the line-up but it still needed the blessings of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud.

"The list was decided by the seven-member committee and the CWC passed it today," he said after chairing the CWC meeting at the party headquarters.

"As far as SUPP is concerned, it (the list) is final but subject to approval from the Chief Minister and Prime Minister."

In the 1996 election, SUPP fielded 17 candidates but lost Kidurong, Bukit Assek, and Pelawan to the DAP and Meradong to an Independent. In an ensuing by-election in 1997, it managed to wrest Kidurong from the DAP.

Dr Chan, who is also Deputy Chief Minister, said his party had studied its candidates very carefully and selected them for the good of the party, the people and the BN in general.

"Unless there is something which the committee does not know about, there is no reason to believe that the BN leadership will reject this list.

"As far as we are concerned, these are the best candidates SUPP can put up," he said.

Dr Chan said he had a discussion with all aspiring candidates who were not selected and had told them to support the party.

"Most of them have expressed their willingness to help the party win the seats.

"We hope for a 100 per cent victory," he said, adding that any party member who contested against the party or any BN parties would be sacked.

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