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Federation-Election

THREE VYING FOR TOP POST IN FEDERATION OF CHINESE ASSOCIATIONS

IPOH, Sept 18 (Bernama) -- The Federation of Chinese Associations of Malaysia (FCAM)'s annual general meeting here on Sunday will see an intense fight for the presidency.

For the first time, three candidates are vying for the right to lead the umbrella body of more than 7,000 Chinese associations in the country and replace outgoing Tan Sri Chong Chin Shoong who will complete his three-term on Sunday.

"This will be an interesting year as three candidates are contesting compared to only two previously or sometimes no contest at all. I think it will be a close fight," Chong said in an interview here.

He said when nominations closed on Sept 5, the presidents of three State Chinese Assembly Halls -- his current deputy, Datuk Peng Yin Huah (Pahang), Datuk Seri Lim Gait Tong (Penang) and Ting Chee Seng (Selangor) -- were nominated for the presidency.

Yap Kian Chiaw of Kelantan won the deputy presidency unopposed.

Chong said the federation's constitution allowed a person to hold the president's post for a maximum of three terms of two years each.

Chong won the post in 1999 when he defeated the then Selangor Chinese Assembly Hall President, Tan Sri Ngan Chin Wen.

Besides the presidential position, there will also be contests for the 21 seats on the central committee for which 34 candidates are vying.

Chong said about 130 delegates from 13 State affiliates would attend the AGM and vote during the election.

He added that the meeting would extend its gratitude to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is due to retire at the end of next month and welcome his successor, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"We welcome the new leadership under Datuk Seri Abdullah and hope he will continue with Dr Mahathir's policy, maintain stability and make the country more prosperous," he added.

-- BERNAMA

AR AR SRI