

12 MAR 2004  
Election-Moggie  
MOGGIE BIDS FAREWELL TO KANOWIT CONSTITUENTS

By: Alan Ting

KANOWIT (Sarawak), March 12 (Bernama) -- Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Amar Leo Moggie today bade farewell to Kanowit, his native constituency, after serving as the Member of Parliament for seven terms.

Moggie, the Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) founder president, who had been in politics for the last 35 years, had decided not to seek re-election in the March 21 general election.

He had also requested to be excluded from the cabinet. He had been a cabinet minister for the past 16 years.

"I would like to thank all of you for the support given to me all this while. Every time I stand as a candidate, you have supported me, including while I was in the opposition," he said when speaking to more than 100 longhouse headmen from Pedai, Jih and Tuah sub-district here today.

Present was his wife Datin Elizabeth Moggie.

Speaking in his native Iban language at the gathering at Fung Ching Kun Temple, here, Moggie said he had expressed his intention to former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad not to seek re-election.

He said when Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi took over the helm as the Prime Minister on Oct 31, he again expressed his desire not to seek re-election and his request was finally granted.

"I've been a politician for the past 35 years. So, it's about time for me to pass the baton to somebody else," he said.

He said despite his intention to retire from politics, there were still calls from the people in Kanowit urging him to contest again.

"I've decided to stick to my decision.

"I apologise as I cannot stand again, I hope all of you will support Aaron Ago Dagang," he said.

Dagang, who is Moggie's former political secretary, had been nominated by the Barisan Nasional (BN) for the Kanowit parliamentary seat.

Moggie also explained to the headmen why the BN took some time to name the candidate for Kanowit.

Asked what he intended to do after retirement, Moggie said he had no specific plans.

"I and my wife wish to live a quiet life," he said.

On whether he would remain in PBDS as an adviser, Moggie said he was willing to give advice if party leaders and members were prepared to listen.

Asked who from the PBDS would succeed him in the federal cabinet, he said it was purely the prerogative of the Prime Minister.

-- BERNAMA

AT AT TOM