

Sarawak BN finalising list of candidates

Malaysianmirror.com

12 September 2010

KUCHING – Sarawak Barisan Nasional (BN) is finalising its list of candidates for the impending state election.

Sarawak BN chairman Abdul Taib Mahmud said he was waiting for the state BN component parties to finalise their candidate list for the coming state election.

"I'm waiting for the other party leaders to make their own assessment (candidate to contest in the coming state election)," he told reporters at the Hari Raya Open House held at the Borneo Convention Centre Kuching here.

Taib, who is the president of Parti Pesaka Bumiputera (PBB), the backbone of Sarawak BN, said he has identified 70 per cent of the candidates for the coming state election.

In PBB, he said new faces would replace few incumbents who have "volunteered to go out".

Among those who have volunteered were former assistant tourism minister Hamden Ahmad, who is the incumbent for Belawai and former assistant minister in the chief minister's office, Bolhasan Di (incumbent for Beting Maro).

The state BN component parties namely PBB, Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP), Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP) and Parti Rakyat Sarawak (PRS) took 71 seats in the 2006 state election.

In the last election, PBB took control of 35 seats, SUPP (11 seats), PRS eight and SPDP eight seats.

SUPP president Dr George Chan said 30 per cent of the party's candidates would be new faces.

Dr Chan, who is also the Deputy Chief Minister, said the party would field young professional candidates to wrest back the lost seats.

SUPP lost eight of the 19 seats it contested in the 2006 state election.

It was the party worst defeat.

For PRS, its party president Dr James Masing said the party would have a 30 per cent change in candidates in the election.

Masing, who is also the Land Development Minister, said the party would field a new face for Ngemah seat, which was won by independent candidate, Gabriel Adit who defeated PRS's candidate, Alexander Vincent, in the last election.

Earlier, SPDP president William Mawan had said the party would retain all eight incumbents to defend their seats in the coming election.

Copyright © 2009 www.malaysiamirror.com

Source : <http://www.malaysianmirror.com/blogbuzzdetail/182-blogbuzz/49278>