

No Compromise Over SUPP Presidential Election, Says Peter Chin
Bernama
December 7, 2011

KOTA SAMARAHAN, Dec 7 (Bernama) -- Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) presidential candidate Datuk Seri Peter Chin says he will not compromise to avert an election for the top post at the party's triennial delegates conference (TDC), here, this weekend.

Chin, who is also SUPP organising secretary and Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister, said he, together with like-minded people, who supported him in the presidential race, had been working towards that direction for the past few weeks although a direct election was seen as likely to further split the state Barisan Nasional (BN)'s oldest party.

"I am confident (of securing the delegates' votes), otherwise I will not be contesting," he told reporters after presenting an allocation of RM130,000 to Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) under its mentor programme fund of 1 Ministry 1 Higher Institution of Learning (1IPTA 1 Menteri) at Unimas campus, here, today.

Chin and another heavyweight, party deputy secretary-general and State Local Government and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Wong Soon Koh, are vying for the top post after Tan Sri Dr George Chan decided to retire.

Yesterday, Dr Chan said he would not mediate between the party's two presidential candidates despite reportedly being tasked by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak to mediate between the two camps.

Asked on the allegation that his camp had not tried to woo the party's Bumiputera leaders to garner their much needed support in the run-up to the party polls, Chin said it was very subjective.

"I am not prepared to discuss it openly," he said, adding that he wished they would support him.

They are said to have thrown their weight behind the rival camp, headed by Wong.

Meanwhile, in advising the 600 delegates to vote wisely, Dr Chan was optimistic that the best man, who could better transform the party, would win.

Najib, who is also national BN chairman, is expected to open the SUPP's 22nd TDC at the Pullman Hotel, here, on Saturday. Chief Minister and Sarawak BN chairman Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud will also be present.

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Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsindex.php?id=632420>