

SUPP Presidential Candidate, Chin Still Wants A "Friendly Contest"

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KUCHING, Dec 9 (Bernama) -- Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) presidential candidate Datuk Seri Peter Chin is still hoping for a "friendly contest" amid a boycott threat by his rival, deputy secretary-general Datuk Seri Wong Soon Koh at tomorrow's triennial delegates' conference (TDC) here.

Chin, who is also SUPP organising secretary and Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister, said today it was up to the central committee (CC), the party's highest decision-making authority, to elect the president and other office-bearers after the 600 delegates had elected the CC members.

"But if boycott really carried on, I will feel very sad, in a sense, that Wong and our (five) state assemblymen chose to stay away from this very important event.

"We talk of wanting to be president or office-bearers, then we should attend the (TDC) meeting because it is our election method.

"If you don't attend, that means you are forfeiting your chance of being a leader," he told reporters after attending the CC meeting chaired by outgoing SUPP President Tan Sri Dr George Chan at the party headquarters here.

Commenting on speculations that he might win the top post by default should Wong and his team decided not to participate in the TDC after claiming "irregularities and manipulation" at the branch elections, he said, some party leaders had no respect for the election process.

"I always say that we are all comrades and brothers. If the CC members chose Wong over me or any other person, we should all congratulate him and if they choose me over him, then he should congratulate me," he said of Wong, who is also State Local Government and Community Development Minister.

Irrespective what happened, he said, Wong was still the party leader in Sibu and himself, the party leader in Miri.

Asked if he already had a team if he was elected as party president, Chin said, he had not predetermined anyone as his deputy, secretary-general or treasurer because he wished the delegates to elect the most capable persons to work with him.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak will officiate at the opening of the TDC here tomorrow afternoon.

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