

**Wong Soon Koh To Contest SUPP President Post In Coming TDC**  
**Bernama**  
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SIBU, Oct 9 (Bernama) -- Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) SibU branch chairman Datuk Seri Wong Soon Koh today said he was prepared to contest the party president post in its coming triennial delegates' conference in December.

"I have received the commitment and pledges of support from leaders and members of the party's northern, southern and central branches.

"Individual leaders too have called me to say they strongly support me to go for the top post," he told a press conference, here, Sunday.

Wong, who is state Minister of Local Government and Community Development and Bawang Assan assemblyman, had said before that he would only consider contesting if he had very good support from the ground.

He also confirmed that Senadin assemblyman Datuk Lee Kim Shin, who is Assistant Minister of Social Development (Sports) and of Communications, would be his running mate.

"It is the general feeling among our supporters that although SUPP is a multiracial party, its key leaders must come from the Chinese community who make up 80 per cent of its members.

"Our Bumiputera leaders like Datuk Richard Riot, Datuk Francis Hardin and others also want us to lead the party as they believe we are in the best position to rebuild, rejuvenate and lead it for the future.

"But of course, the Bumiputera leaders can someday go for the two top posts as well," he said.

Wong said what was most important now was for SUPP to stay united and do away with regional sentiment.

"We must reorganise, especially internally. We must hold our Sa'Ati (one heart) spirit very close to our hearts. "We must stay close to the people and serve them faithfully in order to regain their confidence and support," he added.

Wong is expected to be challenged by SUPP treasurer-general and former Repok assemblyman Datuk David Teng Lung Chi, who is said to be also eyeing the post.

The party's current president Tan Sri Dr George Chan Hong Nam, who was defeated by DAP candidate Ling Sie Kiong for the Piasau constituency in the April state election, has indicated he will step down at the coming TDC.

Meanwhile, in a statement, SibU branch vice-chairman Datuk Tiong Thai King who is also Lanang member of parliament, said the branch was "solidly united and strongly supported" Wong in his bid.

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