

'Sarawak BN may drop nine MPs'
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PETRA JAYA: At least nine Sarawak Barisan Nasional members of parliament are expected to be dropped in the next general election to pave way for newcomers.

Sources said some of them had expressed their intention not to defend their seats while some were dropped because of health reasons, and the others because they had served for several terms.

"State BN chairman Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, who chaired the supreme council meeting, gave hints that some MPs would be dropped," said a source, who claimed that the figure could be up to nine.

He said Taib, who earlier chaired the Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) meeting, had advised those who would be dropped to accept it with an open heart.

"Taib told the PBB leaders that they must place BN's interest above theirs. He said what was important was to secure BN's victory in the next general election.

"He also wanted the MPs to give their full support to the new candidates replacing them."

The source said Taib mentioned Datuk Awang Beme Ali Bashah, who was not nominated to defend his Nangka seat in last year's state election, as an example to be emulated.

But after the meeting, Taib said they only discussed preparations for the next general election.

"We have not finalised the list of candidates or who would be dropped as it is a bit early to do so."

Present at the state BN supreme council meeting were presidents of the three other component parties -- Tan Sri William Mawan (Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party), Tan Sri James Masing (Parti Rakyat Sarawak) and Datuk Seri Peter Chin Fah Kui (Sarawak United People's Party).

Among those to be dropped were Taib's son and first term Kota Samarahan MP, Datuk Seri Sulaiman Abdul Rahman, and Deputy works Minister Datuk Yong Khoon Seng (Stampin MP), both who were not keen to defend their seats.

Others believed to be on the list were Mukah MP Datuk Dr Muhammad Leo Micheal Toyad Abdullah, who had served for seven terms and Mas Gading MP Datuk Dr Tiki Lafe, who had been expelled by SPDP.

In the 2008 general election, PBB won all 14 seats it contested, PRS (six), SPDP (four) while SUPP won six out of its seven seats. By Lian Cheng.

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Source: <http://www.nst.com.my/local/politics/sarawak-bn-may-drop-nine-mps-1.55273>