

SUPP CWC To Decide On 13th General Election Candidates This Sunday
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 16 (Bernama) -- SUPP will hold its central working committee (CWC) meeting this Sunday to decide on its candidates for the coming general election, said party president Datuk Seri Peter Chin.

He said the CWC meeting would discuss and finalise the party's candidates for the general election.

"We may announce the names after the meeting," he told Bernama when contacted, here.

Barisan Nasional (BN) secretary-general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor has issued a directive that all BN component parties submit their list of candidates in two weeks' time.

In the 2008 general election, SUPP won six parliamentary seats - Serian, Sarikei, Miri, Sibu, Lanang and Stampin - and lost to DAP in Bandar Kuching. However, it lost Sibu in a by-election in 2010 following the demise of incumbent Datuk Robert Lau Hoi Chew.

Chin, who is also Water, Green Technology and Energy Minister, said most of the incumbents were likely to be retained.

They include SUPP deputy president Datuk Richard Riot who is likely to defend the Serian parliamentary seat, Ding Kuong Hiing (Sarikei) and Datuk Tiong Thai King (Lanang).

However, Chin declined to say if he would defend the Miri parliamentary seat as talks have intensified that his political secretary, Datuk Sebastian Ting has been considered as the candidate for the seat.

"Most of the candidates are already identified. It's just a matter of getting the CWC to endorse the names before the list is submitted to the top BN leadership for consideration," he said.

Recently, the party's Sibu branch announced that it recommended local community leader Temenggong Vincent Lau as its candidate for the Sibu parliamentary seat.

The seat is currently held by Sarawak DAP chairman and state opposition leader, Wong Ho Leng who wrested the seat from BN in the by-election in 2010 following the demise of Lau.

The Kuching and Pending branches have also recommended two names, SUPP Youth chief Tan Kai and Bong Lian Huan, for the Kuching parliamentary seat while Padawan Municipal Council chairman Lo Khere Chiang is said to be one of the names being considered for the Stampin parliamentary seat.

Stampin will see a new face after its incumbent, Deputy Works Minister Datuk Yong Khoon Seng recently announced his intention not to defend the seat in the coming election.

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