

Sarawak BN to Abide By PM's Decision On BN Candidate List

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KUCHING, March 30 (Bernama) -- Sarawak Barisan Nasional (BN) will abide by the Prime Minister and national BN chairman Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's decision on the list of BN candidates for the 13th general election, its secretary-general Datuk Dr Stephen Rundi said Saturday.

He said the list of candidates from the four Sarawak BN component parties had been submitted based on every angle to ensure the best chance of winning in the general election due to be called at any time now.

"We leave it to the prime minister to make the final decision and will abide by it," he told Bernama, in Kuching when asked to comment on the meeting between Najib and the various state BN chairmen and UMNO liaison committees, including Chief Minister and Sarawak BN chairman Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud in Putrajaya Friday.

Rundi, who is also Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) secretary-general, said with a hundred percent support, every member of the state BN coalition should give their undivided support to ensure BN's victory in all the 31 parliamentary seats in the coming election.

However, he did not elaborate if the candidate list being finalised by the top BN leadership would take into consideration any last-minute changes in certain constituencies involving incumbents with waning popularity among voters.

As Sarawak had already held its state election in 2011, the 31 parliamentary constituencies at stake will see PBB contesting in 14 seats, Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) (seven), Parti Rakyat Sarawak (PRS) (six) and Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP) (four).

In the last parliamentary election in 2008, the Sarawak BN won 30 out of the 31 seats but lost another seat to the opposition, DAP in the Sibu by-election in 2010.

Meanwhile Rundi, who had chaired a meeting with state BN component parties and political secretaries to the chief minister at the PBB headquarters in Kuching, Friday, said it was to fine-tune the election strategies and preparation, which had been going on smoothly.

In strengthening the machinery for the general election, Deputy Chief Minister and PBB deputy president Tan Sri Alfred Jabu had said that PBB as had the responsibility to assist the other three state BN component parties in the run-up to it.

In mobilising the election machinery, however, he said the state BN should not be complacent when facing the opposition come the general election.

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