

Journalist Among BN Candidates For GE13
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 20 (Bernama) -- All this years, Datuk Joniston Bangkuai has been among the journalists seeking for journalistic material from election candidates, but as he submitted his nomination papers for the May 5 polls today, he automatically becomes one of the sources of such material.

Joniston, 51, who is also Sabah Journalists Association (SJA) president and a former journalist with the Malaysian National News Agency (Bernama) and local newspaper Sabah Times in the early 80s, is among the four new faces in the Barisan Nasional (BN) component, Party Bersatu Sabah (PBS)'s list of candidates for the 13th general election (GE13).

The Kiulu PBS vice-chief will contest for the Kiulu state seat in place of Datuk Louis Rampas, who is not defending the seat to allow young blood to rejuvenate the party leadership.

Journalists' participation in politics is not new in Malaysia.

Among former journalists who are also contesting in the GE13 is MIC president Datuk Seri G.Palanivel.

He will contest for Cameron Highlands parliamentary seat for the first time after contesting in Hulu Selangor in 1990, 1995, 1999 and 2004.

Former Tamil Nesan journalist M. Maran will also contest for Bukit Selambau state seat on BN ticket.

Former Malaysian National News Agency (Bernama) editor in chief, now chairman, Datuk Abdul Rahman Sulaiman, has also contested on BN ticket and won in Parit Buntar in 1995.

Former Information Minister and Utusan Malaysia editor-in-chief Tan Sri Zainuddin Maidin has also contested on BN ticket and won in the Merbok parliamentary constituency in 2004, but lost in Sungai Petani in 2008.

Former Utusan Malaysia journalist and deputy editor-in-chief of Agenda Daily news portal, the late Datuk Badrul Hisham Abdul Aziz, was the BN member of Parliament for Hulu Langat after winning the seat in 1995 and 1999.

Besides, former Senate president Tan Sri Adam Abdul Kadir, who had served as a producer in RTM, also launched his political career after winning the Kuantan parliamentary seat in the 1986 general election.

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