

Heads happy with allocation

KUALA LUMPUR: Leaders of all Barisan Nasional component parties have expressed satisfaction with the coalition's manifesto and division of seats for the 11th general election.

After meeting Barisan chairman Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for over two hours yesterday at the Umno headquarters in Putra World Trade Centre here, the leaders said they were only waiting for the list of candidates to be finalised.

They also said the manifesto was well-accepted by all component parties and described it as forward-looking and one that took into account the interests of all races.

MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said Abdullah mainly discussed election preparations and how component parties should co-operate to ensure a resounding victory for Barisan.

The party, he added, would field new and old faces in the elections, while the candidates would be announced upon Abdullah's endorsement.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the party would submit its list of candidates to Abdullah by tomorrow.

He added that the allocation of seats among component parties had been agreed upon earlier.

He said the biggest difference



in the Barisan's campaigning approach this year would be in its election manifesto.

"We are not asking the people to support us. Instead, we will tell the *rakyat* that we support them," he said.

Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said MCA and Gerakan would not swap any seats in the coming general election.

"It is settled. Gerakan has been allocated 12 parliamentary seats and 31 state seats. This means it has two extra parliamentary and four state seats.

PPP president Datuk M. Kayveas said his party had been allocated a parliamentary seat and a state seat.

However, the parliamentary seat - which he has offered to contest - had yet to be decided, said Kayveas, who will be standing for the first time in a general election.

Apart from Parti Pesaka



POSTER POSE: Abdullah holding a campaign poster at the Barisan Nasional operations room in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him are his deputy, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, and Ong.

Bumiputra Bersatu (PBB) president Tan Sri Taib Mahmud, the other heads of component parties were present.

Parti Bersatu Sabah president Datuk Seri Joseph Pairin Kitingan said the party had been allocated an extra parliamentary seat - Batu Sapi, a new seat, in Sandakan.

"We all wished to get more than the quota but we have to abide by the decision," he added.

Sarawak United People's Party president Tan Sri Dr

George Chan Hong Nam said the party was confident of retaining all its parliamentary seats even though it was going to be a tough fight.

PBB deputy president Tan Sri Alfred Jabu said the party was "very happy" with the allocation of seats.

Sabah Progressive Party president Datuk Yong Teck Lee said the party accepted the final decision of the Barisan leadership.

"We have requested for a lot of seats but we retained two

parliamentary seats and three state seats and got an additional new state seat in Luyang," Yong said.

On the allocation of seats in Sabah, Liberal Democratic Party president Datuk Chong Kah Kiat said: "Everything is settled."

United Pasok Momogun Kadazadusun Murut Organisation president Tan Sri Bernard Dompok said other issues discussed at the meeting included the election machinery and medium of communications.