

Labuan Bersatu proposes Suhaili as LC Chairman

Sohan Das

LABUAN: Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu) division here has proposed its Chairman Datuk Suhaili Abdul Rahman (pic) for the post of chairman of Labuan Corporation (LC) which has been vacant since early this month.

Giving reasons for this, its information chief Johari Abidin said, in a statement seen on a WhatsApp platform, said "the choice of Suhaili has the unanimous support of all Labuan Bersatu members, including its Youth and Wanita wings.

It said Suhaili had served in the position before for 10 years and held an excellent record with a good working relationship with LC officers, other departments as well as the international financial industry and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

"Suhaili's criteria fits the post well and there is confidence that he will help galvanise the local economy," said the statement.

The statement also praised Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who is both Bersatu President and Acting Chairman, for a splendid performance within 100 days as the eighth Prime Minister.

When Suhaili was contacted about the statement, he said: "Oops! I don't know about it (statement), but I am okay with whatever decision is made by the PM."

Suhaili was Member of Parliament here for two terms from



1999 and from 2004. During those years, he was the Chairman of LC.

According to a senior Labuan Bersatu committee member, a signature campaign has been launched in support of the proposal and the member claimed that within a week more than 10,000 signatures were collected, with 3,000 from Bersatu members and 7,000 from voters in Labuan.

The argument also advanced in support of the proposal was that with Suhaili as LC Chairman, co-operation and the power-sharing concept of Perikatan Nasional would be well reflected.

At present, the Senator here is Umno Chief Datuk Rosli Alias, while the MP is from Parti Warisan Sabah. With Suhaili as LC Chairman and a PAS appointee as Chairman of the Advisory Council, the picture would be complete.

The LC Chairman post was last held by Datuk Amir Hussein from Parti Amanah, who was dropped following the appointment of new Federal Territory Minister Tan Sri Annuar Musa.

During a recent visit here by Annuar, he announced that a new candidate had been submitted to the PM for consideration.

Since this was made known, there has been widespread speculation that the Labuan Umno Chief would be the likely choice though there has been no comments from Bashir.

There are also talks going around linking the name of a retired top civil servant from Sabah. But some dismissed this as inappropriate for a top civil officer to serve in a lower rung.