Speculation on likely MB continues

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BARISAN Nasional's announcement of its candidates for Selangor brings a new twist to the speculation over who the menteri besar will be if BN recaptures the state.

Four names have been mentioned as likely candidates for the position: Datuk Mohd Shamsudin Lias, Datuk Muhammad Bushro Mat Johor, Datuk Dr A.B. Wahab A.B. Ibrahim and Datuk Dr Tengku Rethwan Tengku Mansor.

Shamsudin will be contesting the Sungai Burong state seat. The 60-year-old former district officer, who received his urban and regional planning Master's degree from Syracuse University in New York, was unanimously appointed chairman of the Selangor Public Accounts Committee despite Pakatan Rakyat’s control of the state legislative assembly. Turning down the appointment as being politically-motivated, he stated that recovering Selangor should be a key Umno strategy.

Bushro, who comes from a humble background, obtained his Bachelor's degree in electrical and electronic engineering from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland. The son of a former Umno strongman, he pursued his studies overseas with the goal of raising Umno's star. Currently the UniKL Malaysian Institute of Aviation Technology chairman, he is also the Subang Umno division chief and has extensive administration experience. A dedicated family man, the 54-year-old is contesting for the Paya Jaras state seat.

Wahab, 62, a strong figure in the corporate sector, will be contesting for the state seat in Taman Medan. Having sat out in the previous elections in 2008, his return to the field marks a comeback of sorts for the former Petronas man. A chartered accountant, Wahab holds an advanced diploma in Accounting from UITM and is currently a director on the board of Alam Maritim Resources.

Tengku Rethwan, 54, will be running for the Seri Setia state seat.

As the brother of Umno secretary-general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, he has strong political ties to back up his academic acumen.

He said the selection of the candidates was based on several criteria.