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Patau-Star

SNAP V-P PATAU JOINS NEW SARAWAK PARTY

KUCHING, Aug 16 (Bernama) -- Suspended Sarawak National Party (Snap) senior vice-president Dr Patau Rubis today announced he has resigned from the party and has become a member of Sarawak State Reformation Party (Star), which has yet to be registered.

He said in a statement he gladly accepted Snap president Datuk Amar James Wong's challenge to continue his struggle under the new party banner.

Copies of his resignation letter were sent to Wong, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Sarawak Chief Minister and state Barisan Nasional chairman Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud.

In the letter, he thanked all Snap members for giving him the opportunity to serve the party in the last 13 years.

Dr Patau was sacked as state Assistant Minister of Finance and Public Utilities by Abdul Taib on Sept 27, 1995 for allegedly "planting" a few independent candidates to contest against the BN during the April 1995 parliamentary election.

In the parliamentary election, Dr Patau won the Mas Gading seat with a majority of 10,784 votes, after defeating Jeron Loben of the DAP and independent Patrick Anek Uren.

He was also the assemblyman for Tasik Biru in the just-dissolved State Assembly.

In the September 1991 state election, he won the seat with a majority of 4,167 votes by defeating Anek Uren who then stood on the Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) ticket, Aloysium Dom Nagok of Parti Negara and independent Abdul Karim Haji Ayub. -- BERNAMA

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