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Taib-Ministry

SARAWAK TO CREATE NEW MINISTRY TO HANDLE RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION

KUCHING, Dec 11 (Bernama) -- The Sarawak government will set up a new ministry to tackle problems arising from migration of people from rural to urban areas, Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said today.

He said a separate ministry was necessary as the increased movement of people from urban to urban and from rural to urban areas have created social problems in the state.

The state government has a data of the problems caused by the migration but was not satisfied with the proposals recommended to check the problem, he said.

"I'm trying to get a good sociologist or people with a good knowledge in sociology to look into the matter," he told reporters after opening the 18th delegates conference of the Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) here.

Asked to comment on the exclusion of Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud from the Cabinet and Datuk Peter Tinggom as a member of the administration, Taib said he was given to understand that the two had asked not to be included.

He said Sulaiman and Tinggom had left it to the wisdom of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to pick the best team to run the country.

Sulaiman was Agriculture Minister and Tinggom Deputy Minister of National Unity and Community Development before the dissolution of Parliament.

Taib said the new Cabinet line-up announced by Dr Mahathir yesterday had a good mix of experienced old hands and high-spirited new faces.

"I'm confident the team will form a fine combination to spearhead the country's development agenda and realise Malaysia's vision to be a developed country in the new millennium," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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