

(SUN) - 8 NOV 2002

SNAP should form new party, says PM

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the deregistered Sarawak National Party (SNAP), which was one of the four component parties in the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) in Sarawak, should be rehabilitated through a new party.

Mahathir, who is the BN chairman, said the coalition was prepared to consider

admitting the new party if an application was made.

There should not be any opposition to the setting up of the new party, he said after launching the Proton Waja 1.8 and Proton Arena 1.5 at Dataran Putra yesterday.

The Registrar of Societies (ROS) announced two days ago the deregistration of SNAP, set up in 1961, following the party's failure to

resolve its leadership crisis.

The party had four MPs, including Deputy National Unity and Social Development Minister Tiki Lafe, and six state assemblymen.

The Sarawak BN, which held a meeting on Wednesday, reached a decision to allow the MPs and state assemblymen to join the three remaining BN component parties - Parti Pesaka Bumiputera

Bersatu (PBB), Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP), and Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) - while awaiting for the outcome of their applications.

Meanwhile, Datuk William Mawan anak Ikom, who is the state environment and health minister, has applied to set up a new party to be called Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP).