

15/11/2002

Be realistic, SNAP leader told

Ainon Mohd

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Barisan Nasional secretary-general Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat urged former Sarawak National Party (SNAP) president Datuk Amar James Wong Kim Min to accept reality and take full responsibility of what has happened to the party.

Mohamed said Wong had the right to appeal against the deregistration of the party and the BN would leave it to the Home Minister to decide on the matter.

However, he said, Wong must accept that SNAP had been deregistered, which means it is no longer a BN component party.

"I think if Wong had been more realistic, SNAP would not have been deregistered.

"But now that the party has been deregistered, he must be realistic enough to accept this fact.

"Even Umno, a party with more than 2.5 million members, had faced a similar problem. Umno was also deregistered, but we accepted it."

Mohamed said this after accepting an application form from Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP) to join Sarawak BN at the BN headquarters here.

The form was submitted by SPDP pro-tem president Datuk William Mawan Ikom, who was accompanied by seven other pro-tem committee members, including Dr Judson Sakai Tagal (secretary-general), Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing (treasurer general) and Dr Tiki Lafe (vice-president).

Mohamed said BN component party leaders should be wise enough to retire, step down and hand over their position to others if they knew their services were no longer needed.

He said Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had set an example by retiring early even though his leadership was still needed.

"BN component party leaders should take him as an example. Although many still want him to lead the country, he is sticking to his plan to retire."

On SPDP's application, Mohamed said it was up to the Sarawak BN to decide.

"I will inform Dr Mahathir about this application and will seek his views on the next course of action. We will also have to wait for the reaction from Sarawak BN."

He said the decision was mostly in the Sarawak BN's hand.

"The way I see it, there will be no problem."