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Changes soon to make party more relevant

KUCHING, Fri. - The Sarawak United Peoples' Party (SUPP) will make changes to its organisational structure soon to make it "more relevant".

Party president Tan Sri Dr George Chan Hong Nam said the move would help strengthen the 43-year-old party.

"Our focus now is to reorganise ourselves in some areas and modernise certain aspects of our organisation so that we will be more relevant to State politics. "Another priority is to recruit more members, especially the young ones," he said.

Dr Chan, who is also Sarawak Deputy Chief Minister and Industrial Development Minister, was speaking to reporters after the conclusion of the party's 19th delegates conference at party headquarters here today.

The conference was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday.

Asked why there was no tussle for positions in the central working committee Dr Chan said it was because of consensus by members.

"I have always said that our leadership is not by one person but we function as a team.

"If you work as a team, normally people don't want any change if the team is good. Of course we have some new people in the lineup as some incumbents decided not to defend their posts," he said.

A notable absentee in the CWC lineup is Bandar Kuching Member of Parliament Datuk Song Swee Guan whom Dr Chan said declined to hold any post. He was the vice-president.

Other changes in the CWC for the 2003-2005 term involved Datuk Wong Soon Koh moving up from vice-president to deputy secretary general (I) and former deputy youth leader Francis Harden Hollis is now deputy secretary general (II).

The new vice presidents are Datuk Yong Khoon Seng, Robert Lau Hoi Chew and Lily Yong.