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Taib-SPDP

STATE BN TO HOLD MEETING NEXT WEEK TO ADMIT SPDP

KUCHING, Nov 13 (Bernama) -- Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said today that the state Barisan Nasional (BN) Supreme Council will hold a meeting next week to admit the Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP).

"I don't see any problem for the state ruling BN to accept the SPDP and definitely will forward the application to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is BN national chairman," he told the media after receiving the SPDP pro tem office-bearers' application letter to join the BN here.

The SPDP delegation was led by its pro tem president, Sarawak Public Health and Environment Minister Datuk William Mawan Ikom. Also present were the party's pro tem secretary-general, Dr Judson Tagal Sakai, who is state Assistant Minister of Infrastructure Development and Communications.

Abdul Taib, who is state BN chairman, said that he was taking Dr Mahathir's advice that the ruling coalition was prepared to admit the new party if an application was made.

"This is also to ensure that the four Members of Parliament's and five assemblymen's services to the people remain uninterrupted," he said.

Abdul Taib also urged the SPDP to invite Limbang assemblyman Richard Wong to join the SPDP.

He said that it was important for the BN to maintain solidarity, harmony and continued socio-economic development in the state.

Answering Abdul Taib's query on Wong's position, Mawan said that the SPDP has sent a strong signal to Wong to join the party and that there would be no discrimination on his application.

Mawan said that the Registrar of Societies (ROS) endorsed the SPDP pro tem committee today. The party's registration was approved by the ROS on Nov 8.

Other SPDP leaders accompanying Mawan to hand over the letter were the party's pro tem deputy president Datuk Seri Peter Tinggom (MP for Seratok), pro tem senior vice-president Peter Nansian (assemblyman for Tasik Biru), pro tem treasurer-general Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing (MP for Bintulu), Dr Tiki Lafe (MP for Mas Gading) and Jacob Sagan (MP for Baram), pro tem vice-president Sylvester Entri Muran (assemblyman for Marudi) and Peter Nyarok (assemblyman for Krian).

-- BERNAMA

MT FLL RM