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SNAP-Wong

WONG TO BRIEF CM AND PM ON EVENTS BESIEGING SNAP

KUCHING, June 7 (Bernama) -- Sarawak National Party (SNAP) president Datuk Amar James Wong said today he would brief Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on events besieging the party.

"I hope to meet the Chief Minister and Prime Minister who is BN chairman as soon as possible," he told a press conference after chairing a three-hour meeting of the party's Central Executive Committee (CEC) here.

The meeting was attended by 12 out of the 21 CEC members. The nine absent, all assemblymen, were led by deputy president Datuk Seri Peter Tinggom.

Wong said he viewed with serious concern the illegal meetings of certain party divisions in Sibu on May 4 and in Miri on May 18 while he was away in Australia for a knee cap operation.

On whether he would be able to resolve the party's leadership crisis which he described as a storm in a tea cup, Wong said God willing, he would be able to overcome it.

On whether there was effort to topple him, he said, "All these years...and everybody wants to be the president. People say I should step down."

He said he had mentioned many times that he would not lead the party forever having at the helm for 40 years and now at the age of 80.

"If there is somebody suitable to take over, I am happy to go. It's up to the 150,000 party members to decide," he said.

On whether the group of nine would meet him to trash things out, he said, "It's up to them. I'm still the president."

On the court injunction to stop Tinggom's group from holding the June 9 meeting, he said it was illegal, including the CEC meeting on May 24 chaired by Tinggom.

Meanwhile, vice-president Datuk William Mawan said the group would go ahead with its proposed meeting on June 9.

"The meeting would be the ideal and best forum for Wong and secretary-general Datuk Justine Jinggut to attend and assess whether party members are still in favour of them continuing to lead the party," he told a news conference.

Mawan, who is Sarawak Minister for Environment and Public Health, said the group expected more than 60 of the 84 divisional heads to attend the meeting which was initiated by Tinggom.

On the court injunction, he said the group would abide by the court's decision if served.

He also said today's CEC meeting chaired by Wong was illegal and unconstitutional.

-- BERNAMA

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