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SPDP-Mohamed
SPDP'S APPLICATION MUST GO THROUGH SARAWAK BN

SEREMBAN, Nov 11 (Bernama) -- Barisan Nasional (BN) secretary-general Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat said today that the newly formed Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party's (SPDP) application to join the ruling coalition should be sent to the state BN.

Since the party was from Sarawak, it should apply through the state BN, he said.

"Any decision made by the Sarawak BN on the new party's application will be accepted by the federal BN," he told reporters after the opening of the HeveaPac RTA furniture factory by Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik at the Sungai Gadut industrial estate near here.

Mohamed, a director of HeveaBoard Sdn Bhd, the parent company of HeveaPac RTA, said this when asked to comment on newspaper reports that SPDP would apply to join the BN.

"In line with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's suggestion recently, we want opposition parties too to join the BN because it is important for us to protect the country's sovereignty and security and reduce politicking," Mohamed said.

He said BN was prepared to accept any parties into its fold as long as they did not impose conditions.

"If it (SPDP) wants to help in preserving peace and stability and reducing politicking which can split us, I think it is a good principle," he said.

SPDP, which was registered on Nov 9, was formed by a group led by Sarawak Public Health and Environment Minister Datuk William Mawan Ikom following the deregistration of the Sarawak National Party (SNAP).

Mawan's group was involved in a leadership tussle with SNAP president Datuk Amar James Wong, which led to the party's deregistration on Nov 5.

Wong has yet to appeal to the Home Minister against the Registrar of Societies' deregistration of the 41-year-old party.

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RP YBY