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Mohamad-Wong

JAMES WONG MUST ACCEPT REALITY, TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 14 (Bernama) -- The former president of the deregistered Sarawak National Party (SNAP) Datuk Amar James Wong Kim Min must accept reality and take full responsibility over what has happened to his party.

Barisan Nasional (BN) Secretary-General Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat today said Wong should accept the reality that SNAP did not exist and was no longer a component of the BN.

However Wong had the right to take whatever action he deemed necessary and under the Societies Act, he had the right to appeal against the decision of the Registrar of Societies (ROS) to deregister SNAP.

"UMNO has been deregistered before. UMNO with 2.7 million members at that time and the President of UMNO is the Prime Minister of Malaysia but we accepted the reality that the party had been deregistered," he told reporters after accepting a copy of the application from Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP) to join Sarawak BN at the BN headquarters here.

The copy was submitted by the pro-tem president Datuk William Mawan Ikom who was accompanied by seven other pro-tem committee members who included Dr Judson Sakai Tagal (Secretary-general), Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing (Treasurer general) and Dr Tiki Lafe (Vice-president).

Mohamad was asked if Wong should appeal against the deregistration of the party to the Home Minister or refer to the court the ROS's decision to deregister the party on Nov 5.

Mohamed said leaders of BN component parties should follow the example set by the Prime Minister and BN Chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to retire even though his leadership was still needed.

"Even though Umno and the BN still needed his leadership and even foreigners also think likewise but Dr Mahathir is giving priority to the strength of the government and the party and not thinking only about himself," he said.

"He voluntarily decided not to contest for party post and has arranged for the transfer of power to his successor," Mohamed said.

He said in politics "no one is indispensable" as the wishes of the people were paramount.

"If the leader reaches the level where his services are no longer needed, the leader should be wise enough to hand over his powers to his successor or step down before being asked to do so," he said.

On the SPDP's application to join the Sarawak BN, Mohamed said the decision to accept or reject it rested with the Sarawak BN.

"Nevertheless I will inform the BN Chairman about this application and seek his views on this matter and secondly we will await the reaction from the Sarawak BN on the application, as it is based in Sarawak," he said.

The BN at the national level would be guided by the decision made by the Sarawak BN, he said.

"From the point of view of the BN at the central level, we have no problem in accepting them," he said.

Mohamed advised all BN component parties to take a lesson from what happened to Umno and SNAP and ensure their parties were always on the right track.

-- BERNAMA

AT AHH AAM

