

07 NOV 2002

Mawan-Party

MAWAN'S GROUP TO MEET TUESDAY TO FORM NEW PARTY

KUCHING, Nov 7 (Bernama) -- The faction in the deregistered Sarawak National Party (SNAP) aligned to Datuk William Mawan Ikom is to meet next Tuesday to form a new party called Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP).

Mawan, who is State Public Health and Environment Minister, told reporters this after meeting Chief Minister and Sarawak BN Chief Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud this afternoon.

He said the meeting was a follow-up to garner support for the formation of SPDP following Tuesday's deregistration of the 41-year-old SNAP.

Mawan said the meeting would be attended by all 80 council members of SNAP from throughout the state.

"We are trying to bring them all together within the shortest possible time," he said.

He said his group was not keen to appeal against the deregistration but was taking Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's advice that the deregistered SNAP should be rehabilitated through a new party.

Dr Mahathir, who is also BN Chairman, said the ruling coalition was prepared to consider admitting the new party if an application was made.

Mawan urged the Registrar of Societies (ROS) to speed up SPDP's approval.

The ROS Datuk Ismail Dolah Harun announced on Tuesday that SNAP had been deregistered following its failure to resolve the leadership crisis that had dragged on since April.

On the "temporary parking" for SNAP's 10 elected representatives in the remaining three BN component parties in the state, Mawan said five assemblymen and four MPs submitted formal applications to the BN supreme council today and were leaving it to Taib to decide.

He said his group had also forwarded Limbang Assemblyman Richard Wong's name, hoping that the kind gesture would be appreciated.

Richard Wong is the sole elected representative of SNAP aligned to his father James Wong.

The remaining three components of Sarawak BN are Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu, Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) and Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS).

-- BERNAMA

FLL TS