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Mahathir-Snap
NAP SHOULD BE REHABILITATED, SAYS PM

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the deregistered Sarawak National Party (Snap), which was one of the four component parties in the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) in Sarawak, should be rehabilitated through a new party.

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

There should not be any opposition to the setting up of the new party, he told reporters after launching Proton's new models -- Proton Waja 1.8 and Proton Arena 1.5 -- at Dataran Putra here.

Asked whether the BN was prepared for the possibility of two new parties being set up by former Snap leaders, he said: "We will have to assess".

The Registrar of Societies (ROS) announced two days ago the deregistration of Snap, set up in 1961, following the party's failure to resolve its leadership crisis.

The party had four Members of Parliament including Deputy National Unity and Social Development Minister Tiki Lafe and six state assemblymen.

The Sarawak BN, which held its meeting yesterday, reached a decision to allow the MPs and state assemblymen to join the three remaining BN component parties -- Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB), Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) and Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) -- while awaiting the outcome of the party's appeal or approval of applications to set up new parties.

A breakaway group of Snap, led by Datuk William Mawan anak Ikom, who is state Environment and Health Minister, has applied to the ROS to set up a new party to be called Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP).

Two days ago, Snap president Datuk Amar James Wong said that he was considering whether to appeal against the deregistration of the party to the Home Minister or refer to the court the ROS' decision to deregister the party.

-- BERNAMA
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