

20 DEC 2002

Chan-SUPP

SUPP TO MODERNIZE PARTY TO BE RELEVANT TO STATE AND NATIONAL POLITICS

KUCHING, Dec 20 (Bernama) -- The Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) will modernize certain aspects of the Sarawak Barisan Nasional (BN) component party to make it more relevant to the state and national politics, its president, Tan Sri Dr George Chan, said today.

Dr Chan, who is also Sarawak deputy chief minister, is at the helm of the party for the third consecutive term.

"We (SUPP) will make some changes to the organizational structure and reorganize ourselves in some areas," he told reporters at the conclusion of the party's 19th triennial delegates conference (TDC) here.

He said that another priority was to recruit more members, particularly young people.

On the new SUPP Central Working Committee (CWC) line-up, he said that with the exception of a few new faces, there was no election for any top post because of consensus among party delegates.

"I always say leadership is not about one person but we function as a team and normally nobody wants any changes if the team is good.... Of course, there are some new people (in SUPP) just to spice up the party," he said.

Resolutions adopted at the TDC included urging the federal government to recognize certificates of the Chinese Independent Schools exam as well as to grant annual fund allocation for all streams of education in the country which endeavour to assist in human resource development.

The TDC also supported the party's central leadership in their dealing over the use of English in the teaching of Science and Maths in Chinese primary schools.

The relevant authorities were also urged to monitor and take the necessary action against illegal fishing by foreign fishing trawlers in Sarawak waters as it adversely affected the fishermen's livelihood and drain the state's marine resources.

It also fully supported the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his successor-designate, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in continuing the mammoth task of nation-building.

State Social Development and Urbanization Assistant Minister Datuk Sim Kheng Hui and Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Law Hieng Ding were retained as secretary-general and deputy president respectively.

Agriculture and Food Industries Assistant Minister Datuk David Teng retained his post as treasurer.

Also retained as the Women Section chairperson and vice president was Datin Janet Lau while Alan Sim was elected as the new Youth Section chairman and vice-president.

Four other vice presidents are Public Works Parliamentary Secretary Datuk Yong Khoon Seng, Tiong Thai King, Robert Lau and Lily Yong.

Resource Management and Planning Assistant Minister Datuk Alfred Yap is the information and publicity secretary.

-- BERNAMA

CJ RM