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Taib-SPDP  
SPDP ADMITTED INTO RULING STATE BN

KUCHING, Nov 19 (Bernama) --The ruling State Barisan Nasional (BN) today unanimously accepted the Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP) into its fold without any condition.

Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said the three BN component parties had no problem admitting the SPDP, which formally applied to join the BN on Nov 13.

"I will put up my letter of recommendation to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is national BN chairman, reflecting the state BN component parties' wishes in accepting the SPDP," Abdul Taib, who is state BN chairman, told reporters after chairing a BN meeting which lasted about 40 minutes.

Present were Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) deputy president Datuk Seri Abang Johari Tun Openg, senior vice-president Datuk Seri Adenan Satem and secretary-general Datuk Ambrose Blikau. Abdul Taib is the PBB president.

The Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) was represented by secretary-general Datuk Sim Kheng Hui and vice-president Datuk Wong Soon Koh and Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) by its president, Datuk Leo Moggie, deputy president Datuk Daniel Tajem and secretary-general Stanley Ajang.

Abdul Taib is confident that the SPDP can work well with the three state BN component parties.

Asked for his advice to former president of the deregistered Sarawak National Party (Snap) Datuk Amar James Wong, he said Wong was older than him and he hesitated to give advice to people much older than him. Wong was also more experienced in politics, he added.

On the position of Richard Wong, who is Limbang state assemblyman, he said: "Because he was elected on a BN ticket, I am duty bound to advise him to join the SPDP. We don't want problems within the BN. I leave the decision to Richard to think very seriously."

Abdul Taib said the state BN component parties had worked very well together and did not need to change their way of doing things.

"We don't want to open doors to allow people to run from one door to another. And it has been very peaceful to date," he said, adding that it was the best way to maintain the trust of other the BN components.

As for advice to former Snap members, he said the SPDP leaders knew better and would do their best to convince them to join the party.

Asked what he would do if Meluan assemblyman Wong Judat, the sole independent assemblyman in the state, wanted to join the SPDP, Abdul Taib said Judat had not applied to do so.

-- BERNAMA  
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