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Resolve problems amicably, BN parties told

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Barisan Nasional parties should resolve any problems they face "internally and amicably", the coalition's secretary-general said today.

Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat said members should use their wisdom and discretion to come to a compromise and not let minor conflicts threaten the stability of their parties.

"Though we welcome the decision by the Sarawak BN to accept the newly-formed Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP) as its fourth member, other parties should not regard this as a precedent."

He said leaving a component party and forming another was not the best way to resolve a dispute.

Yesterday, Sarawak BN chairman and Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said there was no problem in accepting SPDP to the BN fold.

"Since the matter involved a component party in Sarawak, we felt it was only proper that the State BN decide whether to accept or reject it," Mohamed Rahmat said.

"Now that they have decided, I will inform BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad of the outcome."

In normal circumstances, Mohamed Rahmat said, what was agreed at the State level would also be approved at the Federal level.

"The decision augurs well for growth and prosperity in Sarawak.

"They still have a lot of work to do, especially in terms of development and their decision to accept SPDP is a wise one, especially in the interest of the people," he added.