

16 NOV 2002

Wong-SNAP

WONG WILL GO TO COURT TO REVIVE SNAP

KUCHING, Nov 16 (Bernama) -- Datuk Amar James Wong, former president of the defunct Sarawak National Party (SNAP) will go to court to revive the party.

SNAP was deregistered by Registrar of Societies (ROS) Datuk Ismail Dollah Harun on Nov 5 following its failure to resolve the leadership crisis in the 41-year-old party.

The 80-year-old politician, former secretary-general Datuk Justine Jinggut and his deputy Stanley Jugol were present at a meeting here today attended by former SNAP members.

The meeting was chaired by former SNAP central executive committee (CEC) member Edwin Dundang Bugak.

He told a media conference that today being a Saturday, Wong's group would only file its appeal against the ROS decision next week.

He said if Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad or Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi granted Wong's request for a meeting, Wong would leave for Putrajaya immediately.

He said Wong's group totally rejected joining the newly registered party, the Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP) and blamed it for the deregistration of SNAP.

And in the event that all legal avenues to reinstate and revive SNAP were exhausted, he said former party members would enbloc join a Barisan Nasional (BN) party of their choice.

"We will tell the press when and which party we will join," he said.

Edwin said assemblyman for Limbang Richard Wong would "park" at any BN party of his choice as decided by the Sarawak BN chairman Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud who is Chief Minister.

He said members today expressed disappointment and frustration over the action taken by ROS to deregister SNAP, saying the decision was arbitrary as no specific grounds were given to justify such action.

"Other political parties had similar internal problems yet the ROS never deregistered them," he said.

He pointed out that SNAP had been a loyal and worthy component member of the Barisan Nasional and had not only become a leading political party but an institution.

"Therefore to deregister SNAP without valid grounds is high-handed and most unjustified to say the least. Members feel that as a result of the ROS decision and action, it was a sad day for Malaysia and for justice."

Edwin said SNAP was one of the parties responsible for the formation of Malaysia and had contributed to the socio-economic development of Sarawak.

Wong who had kept mum since Nov 5 on his move to revive SNAP, today broke his silence by saying that father-and-son relationship would not affect Richard's decision to join the BN party of his choice.

Asked on what he planned to do if SNAP could not be revived, he said, "I don't know. Dream, dream...."

-- BERNAMA

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