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Mahathir-Assemblymen

BN TO FIX SUSPENSION PERIOD FOR TWO ERRANT STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 7 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional (BN) supreme council today agreed with the MCA's decision to suspend its two Penang state assembly members for abstaining from voting against an opposition motion last November.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said, however, that the coalition would fix the suspension period for the two whom the MCA presidential council had suspended indefinitely.

"The Barisan Nasional will decide when the suspension will end," Dr Mahathir, who is also the BN chairman, told reporters after chairing the three-hour supreme council meeting here.

The meeting was attended by all the BN component leaders except MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu who was represented by his deputy, Datuk S. Subramaniam, and MIC secretary-general S. Sothinathan.

Dr Mahathir said the meeting also agreed that all BN state assemblymen and members of parliament should be subjected to their respective party disciplines and should abide by the BN stand at all times.

"We agreed that all BN elected representatives should support the BN or subscribe to its views," he said.

The MCA decided to suspend Tan Cheng Liang (Jawi) and Lim Boo Chang (Datuk Keramat) after they abstained from voting against a DAP motion in the state assembly to defer the RM1.02 billion Penang Outer Ring Road (Porr) project.

The BN supreme council gave the MCA the mandate to take action against the two last November.

The MCA presidential council then directed the disciplinary committee headed by Datuk Kam Woon Wah to investigate the matter and recommend action against them.

On Dec 16 last year, the council endorsed the disciplinary committee's decision to suspend their membership indefinitely with immediate effect.

Asked when the BN would decide to lift the suspension, Dr Mahathir said: "When to decide, that's our problem."

On the criteria to determine the suspension period, he said that it would depend on the conduct of the two.

Dr Mahathir also said that today's meeting unanimously accepted the application of the Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP) to join the BN.

They would attend the next BN supreme council meeting, he said.

The SPDP, formed by a group of former Sarawak National Party (Snap) members led by Sarawak Public Health and Environment Minister Datuk William Mawan Ikom, was registered on Nov 8, three days after the deregistration of Snap for failing to resolve its internal problems.

The party was accepted as a component member of the Sarawak BN on Nov 19.

-- BERNAMA

AT MAM MAI JK