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SNAP-BN

EDWIN CONFIDENT SNAP WILL BE RETAINED IN BN - EDWIN

KUCHING, Aug 11 (Bernama) -- Sarawak National Party (SNAP) President Edwin Dundang said today the party is "overwhelmed with a sense of joy" at reports that the Barisan Nasional (BN) Supreme Council is to meet next month to clarify its membership status within the ruling coalition.

Newspaper reports today quoted BN Secretary-General Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat as saying that SNAP's membership status in BN would be one of the issues to be discussed at the meeting to be chaired by Prime Minister and BN Chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

No date has been fixed for the meeting.

Edwin told Bernama that he, the party and its members throughout Sarawak were overjoyed on learning that the SNAP issue would be brought up at the meeting.

"We will be out of the woods soon," he said, adding that they were expecting the supreme council to meet soon after their meeting with Dr Mahathir in Kuala Lumpur last month.

Edwin described the indication as "positive" after he and senior party leaders, including Deputy President Datuk Justine Jinggut and Secretary-General Edmund Stanley Jugol met Dr Mahathir.

Mohamed said yesterday the BN Supreme Council would have to discuss SNAP's status since the court had granted a stay of execution pending the final outcome of a court hearing on the party's application for a judicial review of last November's decision by the Registrar of Societies (ROS) to re-register SNAP.

Observers say this is an indication that SNAP is most likely to retain its membership within the BN until the final outcome of the hearing on the party's application to quash the ROS' decision.

The hearing has been set for December.

Edwin took over as President at the party's Triennial General Assembly earlier this year after Datuk Amar James Wong Kim Min stepped down after being at the helm of the party since 1981.

Edwin also said the party's Wanita Chief Puan Sri Rosalind Ningkan, wife of SNAP's founder leaders and Sarawak's first post-Independence Chief Minister Tan Sri Stephen Kalong Ningkan and Youth Head Darrel Entrie have been invited to the Gerakan Wanita and Youth Assembly next month.

-- BERNAMA

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