

18 MAY 2003

Snap-Dundang

EDWIN DUNDANG SUCCEEDS JAMES WONG AS SNAP PRESIDENT

KUCHING, May 18 (Bernama) -- Edwin Dundang was today elected president of the Sarawak National Party (Snap) at its 15th Triennial General Assembly succeeding veteran politician Datuk Amar James Wong who has stepped down.

James Wong, who stepped down from the helm after 22 years has been appointed patron and life president.

Other officials elected are: deputy president, Datuk Justine Jinggut, senior vice president Datuk Michael Bong Thiam Joon while the seven vice presidents are: Datuk Senator William Lau Kung Hui, Leo Jana Etin, Hussain Zainuddin, Johnny Wong Sie Lee, Stamford Emang, Frankie Nyombui and Jamblee Tanggoi.

The newly elected secretary-general is Edmund Stanley Jugol, deputy secretary-general is Frankie Bendindang Manjah, treasurer-general Dennis Chang Foh Onn and publicity officer is Dunstan Melling.

The Snap Wanita chief is Puan Sri Rosalind Ningkan while the Youth chief is Dayrell Walter Entrie.

Eleven members were also elected to the central executive committee (CEC) while another eight were also appointed to the CEC.

Speaking to reporters after the general assembly, Dundang said Snap would offer to defend the four parliamentary seats won previously by the party in the coming general election.

He said despite the difficult times that Snap had just undergone, there would be no problems for it to defend and retain those seats, won during the last parliamentary election, because of strong grassroots support.

"As far as we are concerned, we are still in the Barisan Nasional (BN). We do not have the YBs (elected representatives) but we have the seats, which belong to us and not to those individuals," he said after the general assembly at Santubong about 35KM from here.

Snap was left without any seats in parliament and the state legislative assembly after all its four MPs and seven state assemblymen left to join the newly formed Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP).

The splinter SPDP, which was subsequently admitted to the state and national BN, was formed following the 42-year-old party's deregistration on Nov 5 last year for failing to resolve its leadership crisis.

SNAP, which is legally and technically still a BN component member, would seek a meeting with the BN leadership on the matter when the time came, Dundang said.

He said the decision of the Court of Appeal on April 1 this year to give Snap a stay of execution on the Registrar of Societies (ROS) decision to deregister it, meant it was now operating normally and did not need to be rehabilitated any longer by anyone.

As its membership in the BN had never been disturbed and interrupted, he said it would therefore be malicious and contempt of court to dispute its membership, role, rights and eligibilities in the BN.

He said the party, which had now been revamped, had never left nor had been "kicked out" from the BN.

As a component BN member, he said Snap at the TGA resolved to pledge its full support for Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his vast contributions towards the country's tremendous development, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Badawi as well as Chief Minister and Sarawak BN Chairman Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud.

Other resolutions, included urging the federal government to continue

extending "special treatment" previously granted under the New Economic Policy (NEP) to the Bumiputera community in Sarawak as they still lagged behind in the fields of trade, commerce and industry, education as well as in the civil service.

He described the TGA, attended by 160 delegates from all 64 divisions, as a "quiet family affair."

-- BERNAMA

CJ KHL LCE AAM