

09 JUL 2003
Snap-Mahathir
SNAP LEADERS MEET MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, July 9 (Bernama) -- A three-man delegation from the Sarawak National Party (Snap) led by its newly-elected president, Edwin Dundang, called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at his office here today.

Snap deputy president Datuk Justine Jinggut and secretary-general Edmund Stanley Juggol were the other members of the delegation present at the 40-minute meeting.

Speaking to Bernama later, Dundang said: "We're a party with some problems. Naturally we traversed those problems. As he is our fatherly figure, we sought his advice and assistance. He was very positive."

He said that indications were positive for the party which the Registrar of Societies (ROS) last year deregistered following an internal crisis which led to a breakaway group forming the Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP).

Snap leaders took the matter to court which has stayed the ROS' decision pending the final outcome of the hearing on the party leaders' application for a judicial review of the ROS' decision.

Hearing of the application, scheduled for today in the High Court in Kuala Lumpur, has been postponed to Saturday.

Dundang said that the meeting had enabled Dr Mahathir, who is Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman, to form a better picture of what had been going on in Snap.

"The prime minister already has a good picture of what's going on. After our meeting, we think he has a much better picture," he said.

Asked whether they also discussed with the prime minister Snap's position within the BN, he said that this was also brought up and "I can say that his response is a positive and encouraging one."

This was Snap's first meeting with any top senior BN leader since the party held its delegates' conference earlier this year when Datuk Amar James Wong formally stepped down as president after being at the helm since 1981 and Dundang was duly elected president.

The party is now left without a single elected representative after all its state assemblymen and members of parliament left to join SPDP, led by a former Snap vice president, Datuk William Mawan, who is the State Minister of Environment and Public Health.

-- BERNAMA
JC SR RM