

'SPDP 5' won't comply with branches' demand, says veep
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Rebel Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP) senior vice-president Peter Nansian said he and the so-called 'SPDP Five' would not comply with a decision by 10 SPDP divisions that they should be expelled from the party for running down the party president.

Nansian, who is also Sarawak assistant minister of community services, said it would be a "test" to see if SPDP president William Mawan really had the guts to expel them as demanded by these divisions in the state's central zone.

"We don't trust him (Mawan) and we have nothing more to talk about," he said in Bau today.

He was speaking to reporters after co-chairing the Gong Festival 2011 organising committee meeting, jointly organised by the Information, Communication and Culture Ministry and the state government at the Redeems centre, Kampung Apar in Singgai, Bau.

The 'SPDP Five' - Nansian, vice-presidents Sylvester Entri Munan (former secretary-general), Dr Tiki Lafe and Rosey Yunus and information chief Paulus Palu Gumbang - had expressed a loss of confidence in Mawan's ability to resolve the crisis now affecting the party.

They were also unhappy that Mawan had chosen to refer them to the party disciplinary committee, instead of coming up with a reconciliation or unity committee.

The party has issued Entri with a show-cause letter.

The crisis reared its head at the last party elections in 2009 where the five claimed that Mawan had reneged on his promise to maintain the status quo line-up and made changes to a few appointed posts, including that of secretary-general.

However, in a joint press conference in Sibu yesterday, the 10 chairmen of the divisions concerned said Mawan had always been "very accommodative, patient and calm" throughout the crisis.

In pledging their full support to Mawan over his leadership, the 10 leaders of SPDP's Ngemah, Machan, Bukit Assek, Dudong, Bawang Assan, Pelawan, Nangka, Tamin, Meluan and Pakan divisions wanted the five to be expelled from the party.

They also said the five had no respect for the supreme council for not attending its meeting for more than two years now.

The leaders found it strange that when the five expressed their loss of confidence in Mawan, they had mentioned that they had no personal grudge against him.

An offshoot of the Sarawak National Party, SPDP was formed following an internal party crisis in 2002.

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