

PM Wants SUPP To Focus On Polls
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KUALA LUMPUR -- Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak has urged the Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) to focus on preparation to face the coming general election and not be bogged down by complaints from some disgruntled members to the Registrar Of Societies (ROS)," its president Peter Chin said.

He said this was conveyed by the Prime Minister himself during a courtesy call by the SUPP central working Committee (CWC) members on Tuesday, March 13.

"This is the advise. Go and work, make sure in you are able to win in your area. Don't be bogged down by ROS issue. As party president, I took that as a very good advise and that, SUPP leadership today will do all its best to deliver the seat even though we know some seats are very difficult," he told Bernama in an interview.

In the 2008 general election, SUPP won six parliamentary seats - Serian, Sarikei, Miri, Sibul, Lanang and Stampin - and lost to DAP in Bandar Kuching.

However, it lost Sibul in a by-election in 2010 following the demise of incumbent Robert Lau Hoi Chew.

Chin, who is the Minister of Energy, Green Technology and Water, also said the party would conduct a series of meet-the-people sessions and road shows in all the seven constituencies contested by the party in order to rectify issues affecting the voters.

"We have also been asked to identify the candidates and submit it to the Barisan Nasional chairman at the appropriate time. In terms of preparation, we will go all out after the conclusion of the current parliament sitting," he said.

However, he said the party's Youth and Women wings would be mobilised first to go all out to meet the people and tackle any outstanding issues.

Apart from that, he said during the courtesy call, Najib who is also the Barisan Nasional chairman had advised the various factions within the party to stop infighting and work together to face the general election.

The party has been split into two groups after a group led by former deputy secretary-general Wong Soon Koh decided to boycott the party election during its triennial delegates conference (TDC) at the end of last year claiming irregularities and election manipulation in branches, prior to the party election.

Following that, a group led by Chin was elected as new party president, Deputy Foreign Minister Richard Riot as deputy President and Dr Sim Kui Hian as secretary-general. A new CWC and central committee was also elected.

(Bernama)