

SUPP Not Holding Central Committee Meeting Not Against Constitution
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KUALA LUMPUR, June 29 (Bernama) -- The Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) central working committee's (CWC) decision not to immediately hold a central committee (CC) meeting is not against the party's constitution.

In a statement Wednesday through its lawyer, SUPP said there was "no legal basis to sue the party as the CWC's decision was properly made and did not breach the party's constitution".

"The SUPP CWC did not reject the requisition to hold a CC meeting, but made the decision to conduct a roadshow first to get views and feedback from the party's branches and grassroots members.

"Under the SUPP constitution, there is no time limit fixed within which the CWC must hold the CC meeting, after receipt of a requisition. Therefore, the CWC did not breach the party constitution when it decided to hold the roadshow first," said George Lo, a lawyer, who is representing SUPP.

On May 30, SUPP's 58 CC members, through their lawyers from Wong, Orlando Chua and Kuok Advocates, gave party president Tan Sri Dr George Chan until June 15, to call for an emergency CC meeting to discuss a new party leadership.

The CC members had submitted their requisition to the party leadership to call for an emergency CC meeting but the SUPP CWC at its meeting on May 27, was reported to have rejected the requisition.

This angered the CC members, prompting them, through a legal firm, to issue an ultimatum to the party president to convene the emergency meeting within 14 days, or face legal action.

However, when the initial 14-day ultimatum ended on June 14, the group backed down.

Instead, they gave another 14-day ultimatum -- until June 29 (tomorrow) -- to Dr Chan to call for an emergency CC meeting or they would lodge a complaint with the Registrar of Societies.

However, Lo has pointed out in the statement that Section 18C of the Societies Act "clearly provides that decisions of a political party cannot be challenged in any court."

Therefore, he said there was no basis for any legal action to be taken against Dr Chan or the CWC, in respect of the decision made by the CWC.

"I am also of the view that there is no basis for any complaint to be made to the Registrar of Societies against the party," he said.

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