

SNAP Assembly Called Off Over Technicality
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KUCHING, Sept 25 (Bernama) -- The triennial general assembly (TGA) of the Sarawak National Party (SNAP) scheduled for today has been postponed indefinitely after it was found that a candidate for the presidency is allegedly a member of another political party.

SNAP president Edwin Dundang said a fresh TGA would be called within 60 days from yesterday when the party's central executive committee (CEC) unanimously decided to cancel today's TGA over the technicality.

He said the CEC considered a letter from the People's Progressive Party (PPP) stating that Michael Lias, one of the candidates for the post of president in the elections scheduled at the TGA, was a member of the PPP.

"We did not know that Michael is a member of the PPP until we received a letter from the party dated Sept 21 stating that he has been a member of the party since Sept 14, 2009," he told reporters.

Dundang said Lias had been asked to show cause to the CEC within 30 days whether he qualified to remain in SNAP.

He said SNAP did not want any irregularity in the elections at the TGA to result in the party's deregistration by the Registrar of Societies, as had happened before.

The matter could be manipulated by political adversaries to tarnish the party's image, he added.

"I do not wish to accuse anyone in this matter. Nevertheless, I feel that some quarters are bent on wanting to destroy SNAP," he said.

Meanwhile, SNAP advisor Datuk Seri Daniel Tajem said the decision to postpone the TGA was the best move to ensure that SNAP remained an active political party.

He also said that the general meetings of the women's and youth wings held earlier were valid.

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