

**10 SPDP Divisions Pledge Support For President Mawan
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SIBU, Oct 13 (Bernama) -- Ten Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP) divisions in the state's central zone today pledged their full support to party president Tan Sri William Mawan over his leadership.

They were reacting to yesterday's media conference in Kuching where the so-called "SPDP 5" expressed their "loss of confidence and faith" in Mawan's ability to resolve the crisis now affecting the party.

The 10 were the chairmen of the party's Ngemah, Machan, Bukit Assek, Dudong, Bawang Assan, Pelawan, Nangka, Tamin, Meluan and Pakan divisions. The SPDP 5 are senior vice-president Datuk Peter Nansian Ngusie, vice-presidents Datuk Sylvester Entri Munan (former secretary-general), Datuk Dr Tiki Lafe and Rosey Yunus and information chief Paulus Palu Gumbang.

The crisis reared its head at the last party elections 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.

In their joint press conference here, the 10 leaders said Mawan had always been "very accommodative, patient and calm" throughout the crisis.

"The five are the ones to be blamed. They had came out in the open to run down their own party, making a mockery of it and labelling the president as unkind and so forth," they said in a press statement.

"We have come to the belief that they had totally no respect for the Supreme Council for not attending its meeting more than two years now. Whatever reasons they gave to explain their absence are just lame excuses," they said.

The leaders also said that they 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.

"The loss of confidence is on the five at the way they handled the problem at hand. We have total confidence in Mawan," they said.

The five had, among other things, accused Mawan of "continuing to make many unkind and inconsistent remarks about them and other elected representatives" lately, despite their assuring him of their support for his leadership.

They said 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 committee has issued Entrie Munan with a show-cause letter.

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