

**SPDP Alone Cannot Bring Victory For BN In Mas Gading, Says Incumbent MP
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KUCHING, Jan 1 (Bernama) -- Votes from only Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP) members in Mas Gading will not be enough to enable the Barisan Nasional (BN) to win in the constituency, Mas Gading Member of Parliament Datuk Dr Tiki Lafe said here today.

He said that with an SPDP membership of between 5,000 and 6,000 in the constituency, it would need the support of all members of BN component parties for the coalition to secure the predominantly Bidayuh seat.

"Basically, it is the Barisan Nasional which elected us. As a Barisan Nasional elected representative, I will carry on that mandate until such time we have the signal from the top leadership," he told reporters.

The three-term MP, who is also a former SPDP vice-president, has been at loggerheads with the party's president, Tan Sri William Mawan, since last year when he and four other elected representatives declared their loss of confidence in Mawan's leadership.

The four others are Marudi state assemblyman Datuk Sylvester Entri, who was sacked from the party last November, Tasik Biru assemblyman Datuk Peter Nansian, Bekenu assemblywoman Rossey Yunus and Batu Danau assemblyman Paulus Palu Gumbang.

Mawan has said that Dr Tiki would not be nominated again as the candidate for Mas Gading in the next general election and that SPDP has at least four potential candidates to contest in the constituency.

Dr Tiki, who reiterated that he is willing to continue serving as the elected representative for Mas Gading, said the SPDP's role is merely to endorse the candidacy.

"At the end of the day, it will be two persons -- the chief minister (and Sarawak BN chairman Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud) and the prime minister (and BN chairman Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak) -- who will decide," he added.

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