

**Component Parties With Problems Asked To Give Priority To General Election**  
**Bernama**  
**February 25, 2012**

BARAM, Feb 25 (Bernama) -- Leaders of the Barisan Nasional component parties in Sarawak which are facing internal party problems must find a solution that would not jeopardise the position of the BN in the coming general election, said Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

The Deputy Prime Minister said everyone concerned must give priority to the BN preparation for the general election in resolving the problems faced by their respective parties.

"We know of the developments faced by the component parties and we also know the issues involved. What we are asking is that all the leaders concerned take into consideration bigger things in resolving the problems. We know it is complicated but there are ways to resolve them if we want the matter resolved," he said at a press conference after attending a gathering with educators and the community at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Tinjar, here.

Muhyiddin, who is also the BN deputy chairman, was asked to comment on the crisis faced by the Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) and the Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP), two of the BN component parties in the state.

The conflict in the SUPP cropped up during the party's triennial general assembly last December when a group led by its former deputy secretary-general, Datuk Seri Wong Soon Koh boycotted the assembly after questioning the process in the party election.

Following the boycott, the Member of Parliament for Miri who is also the Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Peter Chin had won the post of party president uncontested.

Meanwhile, the crisis within the SPDP worsened with the expulsion of five of its leaders namely Datuk Sylvester Entri Muran, who is the State Assemblyman for Marudi, Datuk Peter Nansian (Tasik Biru), Rossey Yunus (Bekenu), Paulus Gumbang (Batu Danau) and the Member of Parliament for Mas Gading, Datuk Dr Tiki Lafe.

Following the expulsion, all the five had set up the Barisan Nasional Supporters Club in their respective constituencies.

Commenting on the crisis cropping up in the Kedah state administration under PAS, Muhyiddin said it reflected that the internal problems faced by the opposition pact were getting worse.

"The problems can have an impact on the people in Kedah," he added.

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Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v6/newsindex.php?id=648029>