

Ex-SPDP Leaders Face A Big Hurdle If They Form New Party, Says Taib
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KUCHING, March 9 (Bernama) -- The five elected representatives who were formerly Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP) members would face a big hurdle if they decide to form a new party, Sarawak Chief Minister and State Barisan Nasional chairman, Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said.

He said instead the five -- Mas Gading Member of Parliament, Datuk Dr Tiki Lafe and State Assemblymen Datuk Peter Nansian (Tasik Biru), Datuk Sylvester Entri (Marudi), Rosey Yunus (Bekenu) and Paulus Gumbang (Batu Danau) -- should be given time to reconcile with SPDP.

"I don't think that (forming a new party) is a good idea because there would be many hurdles for them to overcome or in getting the consensus of all the component parties to enable them to become members of Barisan Nasional," he told reporters here.

A Sarawak local daily had recently reported on a speculation that a new party known as Parti Tenaga Rakyat Sarawak (Teras) would be formed to accommodate the five, tagged by the media as SPDP 5, who were either sacked or had left the party between December last year and January this year.

Taib said that it was "not completely impossible" for SPDP under the leadership of its president, Tan Sri William Mawan and the five elected representatives to find ways to reconcile.

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