

SUPP Awaits ROS' Decision On Status Of Two Branches
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By Linda Khoo

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 10 (Bernama) -- The Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) has replied to the show-cause letter issued by the Registrar of Societies (ROS) and is now awaiting the latter's decision on the status of the party's two branches in Miri.

On June 6, SUPP was served with the show-cause letter over alleged irregularities committed by its Piasau and Bekenu branches in the run-up to the party's triennial delegates' conference (TDC) in December 2011.

"We've replied to the ROS letter. We hope to receive a reply so that we can move on," SUPP president Tan Sri Peter Chin Fah Kui told Bernama when contacted today.

SUPP, the oldest party in Sarawak, had split into two factions ahead of the party polls in December 2011, with Sibu branch chairman Datuk Seri Wong Soon Koh leading one faction, and Chin the other.

The supporters of the faction led by Wong had lodged complaints with the ROS related to the election in 14 branches over alleged irregularities and violations of the party's constitution. Only Piasau and Bekenu were served with show-cause letters.

In a recent interview with Bernama, Chin said he was confident that reconciliation talks between the two factions would bear fruit as there were "positive signs".

This is despite the fact that one of the six assemblymen from the group led by Wong had been referred to the party's disciplinary committee.

"Right now, I would say that the mindset is quite good, at least between me and my colleague (Wong). Both of us want to see the party become stronger in facing the state election which must be held in 2016, at the latest," he said.

Chin stressed that both factions were "sincere" in their effort to reconcile to improve SUPP's performance in the next state polls.

"Certainly, we don't want to see the party remain divided. Both of us want to see the party become stronger as we face the next state election," he said, adding that SUPP's next TDC would be held next year.

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