

**Feuding Factions In SUPP Should Sort Out Differences Soonest : CM
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SIBU, Feb 4 (Bernama) -- Leaders of feuding factions in the Sarawak United People's Party(SUPP) should sit down to sort out their differences before the next state election expected in 2016.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said Monday night it saddened him to see them fighting each other and scoring points and ignoring the Barisan Nasional (BN) fundamental commitment where those standing on its tickets should follow its agendas.

Speaking at a CNY gathering organised by the Sibu United Chinese Associations here, he said the infighting was also affecting Chinese political unity in the state.

"I hope my advice and warning is not too late although time is running out. I am very worried unless some move is taken to preserve this unity, like in the past 50 years, the community will be taking steps backward.

"They may eventually be left out from meaningful participation in the government if they do not have a team to represent them," he said.

SUPP, the state's oldest political party is also facing a possibility of deregistration as the Registrar of Societies had issued show cause letters over complaints received on branch election irregularities while its Bekenu and Piasau branches had also been deregistered last month.

In the 2011 state elections, it lost eight of the 12 seats it contested.

Taib said Chinese unity was very critical as Sarawak was about to enter a very important phase of its economic development through the process of greater industrialisation with the implementation of the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE).

"The Chinese must have a team to join the other races in this move toward industrialisation. Hopefully the leaders can solve their indifferences by the middle of this year.

"You should build a new leadership. Let not relatively less important agenda deter the community from soldiering on to make Sarawak a very rich state by 2030," he said.

Taib, who is also the state BN chairman, said his party the Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) would like to help SUPP regain its strength and confidence among the Chinese but would not interfere in the running of any individual BN component parties.

Other local BN component parties like the Parti Rakyat Sarawak (PRS) and the Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP), too would want to help SUPP to be strong and united again before the 2016 election, he said.

Taib reminded them that SUPP had past leaders of great integrity like the late Tan Sri Ong Kee Hui, Datuk Amar Stephen Yong and others.

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