

Riot To Contest As Last Resort To Save SUPP
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KUCHING, Feb 24 (Bernama) -- Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) deputy president Datuk Seri Richard Riot Jaem, who has expressed his readiness to be the party's president, said he will only do so as a last resort to save the party from deregistration.

The Human Resource Minister said he offered himself to helm the embattled party as the leaders of the two factions, SUPP president Datuk Seri Peter Chin and SUPP Sibu branch chairman Datuk Seri Wong Soon Koh, could not see eye to eye.

"If there is no solution to the two factions, and if requested by the majority of delegates to stand in the next triennial delegates conference (TDC) in December, I am prepared to take it up," he told a media conference after officiating at the opening of the Minimum Wages Integrated Nation-Wide Clinic, here Monday.

Riot, who is also SUPP Serian Branch chairman said, if Chin and Wong could not reconcile, then he was willing to take up the challenge in order to save the party from being deregistered.

They have been at loggerheads since the last TDC, which was held here in December 2011, during which Riot supported Chin's faction and was eventually elected to be the party's deputy president.

"With 23 years of experience in politics I am already a veteran politician and I should be given the chance (to helm the party)," he said, adding that he would become the president for one term and would resign if he failed after one term.

SUPP, the oldest political vehicle in Sarawak, was slapped with a show-cause letter on Jan 6 this year by the Registrar of Societies (ROS) and was given 30 days to explain why it should not be deregistered, and the party replied.

But there has been no word from the ROS so far.

If elected SUPP president, he said, his priorities would be to get many young and capable leaders to hold key posts in the party as well as unite all members.

However, he had not spoken either to Chin or Wong regarding his intention to vie for the party's presidency, he said.

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