

SPDP To Fasttrack Group Of Five's Return
Bernama
28Feb 2014

KUCHING, Feb 28 (Bernama) -- The Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP) will expedite the process of reinstating the membership of the four state assemblymen and a former member of Parliament whom it had sacked three years ago.

SPDP president Tan Sri William Mawan Ikom said today such process could only take place once the party received formal applications from the assemblymen, namely Datuk Peter Nansian Ngusie, Datuk Sylvester Entri Muran, Paulus Palu Gumbang and Rosey Yunus, as well as former Mas Gading MP Datuk Dr Tiki Lafe, to rejoin the party.

"You cannot reinstate people if they don't indicate that they are coming back (via submission of application forms). If it is an elaborated process, I could shorten it by just having the decision from the supreme council for them to be reinstated," he told reporters here Friday.

He made the remarks to comment on a newsreport that the party was close towards reconciling with the five who were sacked between November 2011 and January 2012 for gross subordination.

Nansian, Entri and Rosey, who were state assistant ministers, along with Paulus and Dr Tiki had been billed the Group of Five and had maintained their stand that they were Barisan Nasional-friendly inspite of the sacking.

However, Dr Tiki, decided to stand as an independent candidate in the 13th General Election but failed to retain the Mas Gading parliamentary seat after losing to BN-SPDP's new face, Anthony Nogeh Gumbek.

Words on the reconciliation emerged after former Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud and his successor, Tan Sri Adenan Satem during the last state cabinet meeting had encouraged Mawan and the five to make up.

Mawan, who admitted today that he and Entri did hug each other during the meeting, said Taib and Adenan wanted SPDP to solve their internal problems to regain their strength.

"We can't solve the problems if we can't get over our emotions. I believe time has been kind and let us forgive and forget. Just move on. Things have been developing fast and we need to sort (them) out," said Mawan, who is also the State Minister of Social Development.

When asked on any specific time for SPDP to accept the five, he replied: "In politics there is nothing specific. It is not like

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