

01 JAN 1997

PPP-IPF

IPF TO MERGE WITH PPP SOON

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 1 (Bernama) -- The new People's Progressive Party of Malaysia (PPP) is making efforts to bring members of the Indian People's Front (IPF) into the party, PPP president Datuk M.Kayveas said today.

Negotiations had been going on between him and IPF leader M.G.Pandithan and "if everything goes on smoothly as planned, we can celebrate the merger of the IPF and PPP hopefully by Chinese New Year and Hari Raya Puasa," he told reporters at the PPP's New Year "open house" at Taman Tasik Perdana here.

Asked whether he had consulted Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman, Kayveas said Dr Mahathir had not yet been informed of the intention of the two parties "as it is still very premature and when the right time comes, I will seek Dr Mahathir's blessings".

He said that with the merger of the two parties, PPP would emerge as the third biggest component party in the BN after Umno and the MCA, taking over the position currently being held by the MIC.

"After the merger, we will remain to be a multi-racial party and not an Indian-based political party as we feel that someone must open the door for Pandithan and his followers to join BN because it is not possible to have another Indian-based party in the BN," he said.

Kayveas said that the PPP leadership had no objection if Pandithan was really sincere to serve the party although some members had voiced their fears regarding Pandithan joining the party based on his previous political records.

He said: "I think we will accept him as I do not want to be selfish and we have to put selfishness to one side for the good of the BN just like the same manner when Umno accepted former Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) leader Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah back into Umno's fold."

"The risk Pandithan will be giving is less but benefits to the party will be more as eventually IPF will be dissolved and he has indicated that he does not want any position in the party and we want to see his sincerity," he added.

Kayveas said that the PPP did not want any disturbance within the party as it was now preparing itself for the next general election and he made it clear that "PPP is now ready to be reckoned as a force and to play a much bigger and active role in the BN".

According to Kayveas, the PPP now has 220,000 members with 2,123 registered branches throughout the country and with Pandithan's claim that IPF has a strength of almost half a million, the new PPP would continue to grow stronger and bigger.

"PPP is now showing a lot of strength after its rebirth three years ago and since then it has proven clearly that there is a place in Malaysia for PPP whose motto is 'One Nation, One People'," he said.

Kayveas said the PPP would soon embark on a massive membership campaign to woo the younger people to join the party by creating a greater political awareness among themselves rather than being involved in undesirable activities such as misuse of dadah.

He said the PPP believed that it was the duty and responsibility of the elder and senior citizens to make sure that the country had the right leaders in order to achieve Vision 2020. -- BERNAMA

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