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PPP considering entering Sabah, says Kayveas

IPOH, Mon. - The People's Progressive Party is considering making tracks into Sabah, after it received written inquiries from 7,000 people in the State wanting to join the party.

Its national president Datuk M. Kayveas, said last night he had received 2,000 application forms during a meeting last month in Sabah.

At that meeting, the applicants were told their applications were accepted but no official statement had yet been made on the status of their membership as the party intended to first investigate the reasons behind the move.

He was speaking to reporters after attending the PPP's Deepavali celebrations at the Red Crescent hall here.

Kayveas who was until last month Perak PPP chairman until treasurer Lee Heng was appointed to the post, said he wanted to bring this to the attention of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

However, he said, the time now was not right.

He said it was important that PPP took up the matter. It would be a loss to Barisan Nasional if the party did not accept the applicants as they would then go to the opposition.

The Perak-based PPP, once a sizeable force within the Barisan Nasional, intended to make a strong comeback after a renewal process that began in 1993, said Kayveas.

New blood with active members replacing older members was one of the moves initiated by Kayveas for the party to raise its membership to 220,000.

Its presence is felt in Perak, Selangor, Johor, Federal Territory, Negri Sembilan, Malacca, Kedah and Penang. It also had a number of members in Pahang and Perlis, he said.

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