

12 NOV 1999

Court-Kayveas

APPEAL COURT CONFIRMS KAYVEAS AS PPP PRESIDENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 12 (Bernama) -- The Court of Appeal today confirmed Datuk M.Kayveas as president of the People's Progressive Party (PPP).

Tan Sri Lamin Yunus, the Court of Appeal president, made the decision after dismissing an application by former PPP secretary-general P.V.Das to set aside the court's suspension of a High Court ruling that invalidated Kayveas' presidency.

The High Court in Seremban had on Sept 18 ruled that the declaration by the Registrar of Societies recognising Kayveas as the president of the Barisan Nasional component party was null and void.

On Oct 14, Kayveas succeeded in getting the Court of Appeal to suspend the ruling.

Lamin dismissed Das' application to set aside the suspension after hearing submissions by Kayveas, who represented himself, Das' counsel Tun Salleh Abas and senior federal counsel Datuk Zaitun Zauyah Puteh who represented the Registrar of Societies.

In his submission, Salleh questioned the legality of the stay order granted by the Court of Appeal after Kayveas' ex-parte application.

Salleh, the former lord president, also questioned Kayveas' action as a public official of the PPP to intervene in the Registrar of Societies' appeal against the High Court decision.

Kayveas, however, submitted that the court's decision would affect him as if it allowed Das' application, his (Kayveas) chances of obtaining seats for PPP in the Nov 29 general election would be reduced.

He said he might have to wait for another five years to get such a chance if the court ruled in favour of Das.

Kayveas told Bernama that today's decision brought justice to the PPP which had been riddled with legal problems for some time as a result of various applications to the court made by a group of former party leaders.

"We hope PPP won't be burdened by such problems after this as they affect the party's progress and struggles for its more than 250,000 members," he said.

Kayveas said the decision to retain him as PPP president was in line with Section 18 (c) of the Societies Act which prohibited political matters from being brought to court.

"Much time and money have been spent on cases involving PPP. As we know, every court case involves high costs," he said.

Kayveas, elected twice as PPP president since 1993, described today's decision as timely as the general election would be held this month.

He said he would meet Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad next week to find out if the PPP would be allocated any seats.

-- BERNAMA

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