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Call for warring PPP factions to bury the hatchet

JOHOR BARU, Wed. - An Indian-based non-governmental organisation here today called on the "warring parties" fighting for control of the People's Progressive Party to unite for the good of the party and its members.

Johor Indian Business Association (Jiba) president P. Sivakumar said with the general election around the corner, the leaders should put the party's interests above self interests.

"This is all the more important since the PPP is a component member of the Barisan Nasional. This protracted bickering among the PPP leaders is not doing anybody any good.

"They should bury the hatchet and unite to help the BN win the election and focus their efforts on improving the lot of members," he said in a Press statement today.

He added that the leadership tussle had weakened the party.

On Saturday, Seremban High Court judge Datuk Mohamed Noor Abdullah ruled that the Registrar of Societies had erred in recognising Datuk M. Kayveas as party president in 1992 and declared the recognition null and void.

He gave the decision in a suit brought by former PPP secretary-general P.V. Das against the ROS and asked the court to declare Kayveas' presidency and posts of other office bearers as invalid.

Das and former acting PPP president S.I. Rajah are now also claiming the presidency following the court decision.

"The current state of affairs in PPP is really very sad. Those claiming to be the party president may have scored a point in court, but they have let down the party members.

"For the sake of party unity, we appeal to all concerned to rally around Kayveas, under whose leadership, the party has grown in both membership and stature.

Meanwhile, Johor PPP deputy vice-chairman A. Sabapathy said PPP members in the State were "solidly behind Kayveas".

"He is the captain of our ship and we are prepared to sink or swim with him," he told the New Straits Times here today.

Sabapathy said all 500-odd PPP branches in Johor were saddened by the turn of events in the party.

He stressed, however, that they were die-hard BN supporters and would continue to support Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the BN Government.

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