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Pandithan-IPF

IPF TO REMAIN A BN LOYALIST, SAYS PANDITHAN

KUALA LUMPUR, April 2 (Bernama) -- Indian Progressive Front (IPF) president M.G.Pandithan has ruled out his party joining or merging with the Parti Keadilan Nasional (Keadilan) expected to be launched by Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail on Sunday.

"We will continue with our support for Barisan Nasional (BN). We will remain loyal with BN although we are not in BN," he said when contacted, here, today.

Pandithan said although IPF's application to join the BN was still pending, he was optimistic that it would be accepted sooner or later.

"We have waited this long and we will wait. We still feel the prime minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) is the right man to decide the future of IPF," he said.

Pandithan also said he had not been approached by Keadilan, a multi-racial party headed by Wan Azizah, the wife of former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The original name of Keadilan was Ikatan Masyarakat Islam, set up in 1990. It was changed to Parti Keadilan at its extraordinary general meeting recently.

Pandithan also said the IPF has no plans to merge with any of the BN component parties, including the People's Progressive Party (PPP) or MIC.

"We will not merge because unnecessary tension will be created," he said.

The IPF, formed in 1990, was a member of the "Gagasan Rakyat", a loose coalition of opposition parties, until 1995 when it pulled out from the coalition and applied to join the BN.

However, the party's application to join the BN was rejected and it has appealed against it.

Pandithan, a former MIC vice-president, also said he has no problems working or cooperating with MIC president Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu and the MIC.

"I have always respected him (Samy Vellu) and I have never lost that respect for him," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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