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PPP to stay put despite `pressure'

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - The People's Progressive Party will continue to be part of the Barisan Nasional despite "outside pressure" to abandon the coalition, its president Datuk M. Kayveas said today.

He said some people, whom he termed "mediators", had been calling on the party leadership to quit the BN as the PPP had not been given any seats in the general election.

"There has been a lot of pressure on us to abandon the BN but we will not succumb. We can play a constructive role without any position in the Government," Kayveas told a Press conference before chairing the party's supreme council meeting.

He, however, said a position in the Government would be good in boosting the party's image.

Kayveas said the people putting on the pressure were anti-BN and claimed the PPP could play a better role outside BN.

"Basically, they are anti-Dr Mahathir. Before the election, they said we would not get any seats to contest and asked us to move out."

He said he was even contacted by the group last night, adding that no money or position was offered.

Kayveas also said the party would consider action against a Sungai Siput PPP division committee member who had worked against the BN in Sungai Siput.

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