

PM to consider PPP's request

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Seats in parliament, state assemblies will be given due consideration

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat: The People's Progressive Party's long standing request for seats in both parliament and state assemblies will be given due consideration, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

It will be discussed at the Barisan Nasional meeting, Mahathir said, adding that it is a matter he can't solely decide.

"I have to do some haggling. I will try to give them something anyway," he said after opening the PPP's 47th General Assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre. The assembly theme is *Everything is For You Malaysia*.

Earlier in his opening speech which was telecast live, Mahathir, who is also BN chairman said he will consider PPP's request "wisely" after taking into consideration the effort it

By **R. Manirajan**
and **S. Gayathri**
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

had put in for the coalition in the last general election and its continued strong support for the Barisan.

"BN appreciates the PPP's contribution and it's justified for BN to consider the party's demands," said Mahathir.

PPP president Datuk M. Kayveas had also brought up this subject in his opening address, saying the PPP is waiting for BN to give the party a "citizen" status and not a "permanent resident" status.

He said before the PPP joined BN in 1973, the PPP had won five parliament and 15 state assembly seats.

However, under the Barisan banner in the 1974 general election the PPP won one parliament and two state seats.

Kayveas said the PPP joined the Barisan for its concept of power sharing and not because of a marriage of convenience.

"PPP will work towards getting back all its parliamentary and state seats in the next general election," he said.

Mahathir also praised the PPP, saying that although it is small in size it is not small in fighting spirit.

"The question of any component party being sidelined does not arise just because they do not have any representation in the government, state assembly or parliament," Mahathir said.