

SDN 21/1/2001

Kayveas's appointment as deputy minister a good move: Samy

By **Ashraf Ali**

ashraf@thesundaily.com

SUNGAI SIPUT, Sat: MIC today welcomed the appointment of the People's Progressive Party (PPP) president Datuk M. Kayveas as the deputy minister of housing and local government.

"It is a good decision because he heads one of the component parties in the Barisan Nasional," said its president, Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu.

"I support this move. Kayveas, with his post as a deputy minister, can boost his party and its members. The PPP has long been in existence, but after the death of the Seenivasa-

gam brothers, it encountered some problems."

The works minister, who was out of the country when the minor changes to the cabinet were made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad recently, described the appointment as a "gift" to Kayveas for being patient.

He said this after handing out Chinese New Year gifts to elderly people in Sungai Siput.

"I believe the prime minister respects the PPP, and wants to provide an opportunity to the party," he added.

When reminded that PPP does not have any MP or state assemblyman, Samy Vellu said it is all up to Mahathir to decide on the matter.

Samy Vellu also said Datuk Shahrizat Jalil's appointment to head the Women's Affairs Ministry is timely, as a good percentage of the nation's 22 million population are women, and the ministry will handle issues and problems affecting them.

He said Shahrizat, previously a deputy minister in the PM's Department, has the experience to formulate policies for the betterment of women.

He also congratulated the Department of Islamic Advancement's director-general Brig Jen (Rtd) Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin, for being appointed a minister in the PM's Department, in charge of Islamic affairs.