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Dr M: A PPP representative will be appointed Senator for its support of BN

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - A member of the People's Progressive Party will be appointed a senator to enable the party to have someone with a "government post", Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

He said the party representative would be appointed as soon as there was a vacancy in the Senate.

Speaking at the PPP's "open house", he praised party members for being "loyal and enthusiastic supporters" of the Barisan Nasional during the general election although none of them was selected as a candidate.

Dr Mahathir said not all leaders and members of BN component parties could be appointed to the Government.

"However, this does not mean we did not appreciate the support of BN component parties. I am deeply indebted to the PPP."

The party has organised open houses to celebrate the four major festivals in the country - Hari Raya, Christmas, Deepavali and Chinese New Year - on the first day of the new year since six years ago.

Present at the function were Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, PPP president Datuk M. Kayveas and his wife Datin Blanche O'Leary and some 1,000 party members and their families.

Dr Mahathir said BN leaders and members should not expect any rewards for the work and support to the party.

Speaking to reporters later, Dr Mahathir said Malaysians must be tough and strive to be dedicated and hardworking citizens to face challenges of the new millennium.

"Our target for the new millennium is to achieve developed nation status. We must work hard from now on. It is possible since Kuala Lumpur residents' per-capita income has surpassed the US\$20,000 (RM76,000) mark.

"The next step is for us to ensure that the whole nation achieves the target," he added.

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