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IPF-BN

IPF RESPECTS BN DECISION, HOPES TO JOIN COALITION IN FUTURE

KUALA LUMPUR, July 26 (Bernama) -- The Indian Progressive Front (IPF) is not upset with the Barisan Nasional (BN) supreme council's decision to defer its application to join the coalition.

IPF president Datuk M.G. Pandithan said the decision not to reject its application outright gave the party hope of joining BN in the future.

"Since we were not rejected as happened four years ago, I can see the light at the end of the tunnel. There's a chance and we will continue to support BN at all costs," he said here today.

Pandithan, who founded the party in 1990 after being sacked from MIC two years earlier, was commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement that the BN yesterday agreed to defer the applications by four parties to join the 14-member coalition.

He said IPF had written to the Prime Minister to give them a chance, adding that only BN could represent the interest of the Indian community in the country.

Pandithan said he was confident BN would admit his party one day.

On reports that he had sought an appointment with MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, Pandithan said he would like to meet his "arch-enemy" to discuss various issues affecting the community.

"We have been enemies for the past 12 years, but we can't be like that forever. This is more of a family problem," said Pandithan who met Samy Vellu eye-to-eye for the first time in 12 years during campaigning for BN candidate S. Sothinathan in the Teluk Kemang by-election last month.

Pandithan said that meeting was a turning point in their relationship.

He said the proposed meeting with Samy Vellu was not to discuss the possibility of him and other party members rejoining MIC.

"We can do a lot of things together. Just because we are in different ships doesn't mean we are disunited. I am eagerly waiting for his response (to the proposed meeting)," said Pandithan.

-- BERNAMA

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