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PPP-Seats

PPP WANTS SEATS BACK AT NEXT ELECTION

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 1 (Bernama) -- The People's Progressive Party (PPP) should be allowed to contest eight parliamentary and 18 state constituencies in the next general election, matching the number of seats it held in the 1960s, its Youth chief T.Murugiah said today.

He said the PPP was confident of winning if given an opportunity to contest these seats by the Barisan Nasional (BN) leadership.

"The PPP Youth wants the party president (Datuk M. Kayveas) and supreme council members to plead to the BN leadership that the PPP be given back the seats it held in the 1960s," he said in his speech at the PPP Youth annual general assembly here.

He said the PPP should be given its share of seats as the Election Commission had proposed to add 25 parliamentary and 59 state seats in the current redelineation exercise.

The PPP Youth also requested that Kayveas be made a minister and that its other leaders be given proper recognition by being appointed to district and town councils.

"We are grateful to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for making our president a Senator and a deputy minister (Housing and Local Government) but compared to other component party members (leaders) who are ministers, the PPP president too deserves this honour," he said.

The assembly was opened by BN Youth head Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein.

However, the assembly passed a resolution asking for 12 parliamentary and 21 state seats, saying that the PPP has reached a high level of maturity and now has some 320,000 members, eight times more than its membership in 1972.

At a press conference later, Kayveas said it was time that the seats were returned to the PPP as the party felt that "it could handle the seats."

"Some BN component parties have said that they do not want seats, and we are ready to accept whatever is given to us. We know we can deliver," he said when asked on the resolution.

However, he said the PPP was not issuing an ultimatum to the BN leadership and would leave it to Dr Mahathir, who is the BN chairman, to decide.

"But we wish to emphasise that the giving of seats to us must be based on merit...if the Prime Minister thinks we can deliver and we have the capabilities to deliver then by all means please give us our due," he said.

Asked on the request for him to be made a minister, Kayveas said the Youth wing made the resolution after considering the fact that most of the BN component party leaders were federal ministers.

At the same press conference, Hishammuddin said the issue of seat allocation would be discussed by the top BN leadership.

"This time around we have more seats, so I think it is enough to make everyone happy," he said.

The assembly also passed 16 other resolutions, including one urging the government to ban motorists from smoking behind the wheel.

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The delegates also urged the government to give civil servants a pay rise, build more low-cost flats and abolish lawyer's fees for bank loan agreements.

-- BERNAMA

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