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Kayveas-Youth

PPP YOUTH HEAD KNEW WHAT WAS COMING, SAYS KAYVEAS

KUALA LUMPUR, March 3 (Bernama) -- PPP Youth chief T. Murugiah, who has been asked to show cause for his controversial statement supporting polygamy, should not be surprised of the action as he was aware of the backlash over his outburst, party president Datuk M. Kayveas said today.

"As far as I know, he is fully aware of the backlash and there is nothing to be surprised on the party's action.

"He knows the supreme council members, vice-presidents, state chairmen and even members were not happy with him," he said.

Kayveas, who is Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister, was responding to a statement by Murugiah yesterday that he was surprised by the party's decision and that he had thought that the party had closed the issue.

Murugiah, in his speech at the PPP Youth Assembly on Dec 28 last year, had, among others, urged the government to legalise polygamy in a move to tackle social ills in the country.

His statement angered women groups who expressed aghast over the proposal.

"The matter is not closed as after the issue the supreme council had not sat. Since the AGM on Dec 28, we have not held any supreme council meetings because of the holidays.

"Yesterday's meeting was the first after the agm," he told reporters after the launch of the National Landscape Day 2002 by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the KLCC park here.

He said the PPP supreme council had given Murugiah until its next meeting to be held next month to reply to the show-cause letter issued yesterday.

"It was an unanimous decision not an individual decision. As far as I'm concerned, I'd like to drop the issue and move on with other work," he said.

While raising problems faced by illegitimate children and single mothers were good, making a proposal to support polygamy was for policymakers to decide, he said.

Kayveas said the party wanted Murugiah to be more cautious in issuing statements as they could irk certain segments of society.

"We feel the proposal should not be made to the government as it was not the party's stand," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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