

MCA snub doesn't surprise PPP chief

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KUALA LUMPUR: The People's Progressive Party (PPP) may have a testy relationship with the MIC, but yesterday, it was the MCA's absence at PPP's 50th General Assembly here which raised questions over ties in the ruling coalition.

While MIC President Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu attended the assembly – jet-lagged after returning from Timor Leste the previous night – MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting was a no-show at the event.

His absence was evident, considering leaders of other Barisan Nasional (BN) parties, including Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik, attended.

To top that off, Prime Minister

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad opened the assembly, accompanied by his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

PPP officials told *theSun* later not a single MCA representative was there.

Ong also did not send his RSVP indicating he would not be able to attend.

"All the others did (send RSVPs) whether they were attending or not," the official said.

When asked on Ong's absence at the general assembly, PPP president Datuk M. Kayveas admitted that he and his former boss did not have a good relationship.

Ong, the housing and local government minister, had Kayveas as his

deputy for several months, before Kayveas was made deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Department.

"I never had a good relationship with Ong when I was deputy housing and local government minister," Kayveas told reporters after the assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre.

"We are always silent with each other. We don't talk much.

"Maybe we do not share the same interests. I don't know if he plays golf but I don't."

Kayveas, however, said he is confident that their icy ties can be thawed, given the fact that he did have a good relationship with Ong before he was posted to Ong's ministry.