

26 OCT 2003

Kayveas-Ong

MY RELATIONSHIP WITH ONG CAN BE BETTER, SAYS KAYVEAS

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 26 (Bernama) -- The People's Progressive Party President, Datuk M. Kayveas, said today his relationship with MCA President Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting is quite bitter.

"I never had a good relationship with Ong Ka Ting when I was in the Housing (and Local Government) Ministry. We were silent towards each other, we didn't speak much.

"Maybe we don't share the same interest. I don't know whether he plays golf but I don't play golf," he told reporters when asked why senior MCA leaders were not present at the PPP's 50th General Assembly.

Kayveas said Ong and he could improve the dull relationship and stressed that he had good working relations with past MCA leaders, including MCA Youth.

Earlier, in his winding-up speech at the one-day assembly, Kayveas, who is also Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, told delegates the party would leave it to the Barisan Nasional (BN) leadership to decide on seat allocation for the next general election.

"The BN leaders know better and the hopes of BN candidates, especially in newly created constituencies.

"Selection of candidates will be made by consensus and I'm confident PPP's aspirations will not remain merely as a dream.

"PPP is determined to work hard to support the BN to win in the election. We've the strength and we will surely bring victory to the coalition," he said.

Twelve resolutions, mainly on social and education issues, were passed at the assembly attended by more than 3,000 delegates.

A resolution to honour Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his immense contributions to the nation was also adopted.

-- BERNAMA

VP HK TS