

23 APR 2003

PPP-IPF

PPP TO SAY "NO" TO IPF'S INCLUSION IN BN

KUALA LUMPUR, April 23 (Bernama) -- The People's Progressive Party (PPP) will veto any attempt by the Indian Progressive Front (IPF) to join the 14-member ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition, its president, Datuk M. Kayveas, said today.

He said that the 50-year-old PPP had decided that it would not support IPF's application to join the coalition as the MIC splinter party had created doubts that it supported the BN's visions.

"(M.G) Pandithan (IPF president) yesterday in a Tamil newspaper has indirectly revealed what we suspected for long. He indirectly said that IPF is not in favour of the Vision School concept which has been mooted and being implemented in stages by the government," Kayveas told Bernama here.

The IPF was formed by Pandithan after his fallout with MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu more than a decade ago. Initially, the party was in the opposition bloc but made an about-turn at a later stage to support the BN.

The IPF has been knocking on the BN's door since then and the coalition's consensus system has denied the party the opportunity to join it. It is an open secret that the MIC has been the IPF's stumbling block in its attempt to join the BN while the PPP has been undecided over the matter.

Now with the PPP, also a BN component party, making a stand on the issue, observers feel that the IPF has an uphill task in sharing seats with the other BN component parties in the BN Supreme Council.

Kayveas was reported as saying yesterday that Pandithan was a wolf in sheep's clothing, pretending to support the BN.

He said this when commenting on Pandithan's statement in a Tamil daily that Kayveas' suggestion on the closure of Tamil schools was in support of the Vision School concept.

"That statement made by Pandithan indicates that the IPF president is not in favour of the Vision School envisaged by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad," Kayveas said.

He said that future applications by the IPF to join the BN would not only be opposed by the MIC but also the PPP as the IPF would not be an asset but a liability to the BN.

Meanwhile, when contacted at his residence later, Pandithan denied the allegation that he is not in favour of the Vision School concept, under which national and national type schools are housed in the same compound for closer interaction between students of various races.

"I did not say that (I'm against the Vision School)...what I said was that the IPF will act as a shield to defend the Tamil language. It does not mean that we're not supporting the Vision School," he said.

He said that although the idea of the Vision School was good to foster closer race relations in the society, the concept would take time.

"Parents need to be educated on the Vision School first. It must be a slow process...we cannot rush things but I never said that the IPF does not support the concept," he said.

He said that Kayveas had interpreted his statement according to his whims and fancies.

"I'm not a wolf in sheep's clothing but a tiger which will pounce on traitors of the Tamil language and the Indian community in the country," Pandithan added.

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