

26 OCT 2003

Kayveas-Efficient

REPS NOT EFFICIENT DUE TO BUREAUCRACY, SAYS KAYVEAS

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 26 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's elected representatives are inefficient in carrying out responsibilities to fulfil public demands due to bureaucracy in government agencies, Peoples Progressive Party (PPP) president Datuk M. Kayveas said.

He said the local authorities were entrusted with the role of administrating public affairs but they themselves were not people-friendly.

"Representatives always feel disappointed because they cannot function efficiently. The agencies and authorities, especially the local government, are usually coddled and protected by the state government.

"They have too much freedom to act, as if there is a colony in the government," he said at PPP's 50th General Assembly which was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Dewan Merdeka, Putra World Trade Centre here today.

"They (local authorities) are not functional in helping representatives who want to fight for the people," he said.

In his speech, Kayveas also called on the government to look into the status of Malaysians who married outsiders and that of their children, especially the product of marriages between foreign men and local women.

"Because the law is not friendly towards them, PPP would like to suggest that the fate of the couples and the status of their children be given special attention so that the family institution does not break up," he said.

Last year, 45,274 foreign women married local men and if they had children in Malaysia, they would be allowed to stay in the country at the discretion of the Immigration Department Director of Visas, Passes and Permits, he said.

"However, for foreign men who hold temporary working passes and marry locals, if they divorce, the men would no longer be accorded any distinction except as normal tourists," he said.

Kayveas said in Sabah there were 10,000 unregistered children who were products of those marriages.

"They are children without a state, without a country and we feel these 'stateless' people are likely to create social problems in the future," he said.

In this matter, the government needed to take realistic steps to recognise the children's status as Malaysians, he said.

-- BERNAMA

VP AT KHY EMK