

28 FEB 2004

Kayveas-Bribery

KAYVEAS SAYS BRIBERY REPORT POLITICALLY MOTIVATED

IPOH, Feb 28 (Bernama) -- Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk M. Kayveas today claimed that a bribery report made against him yesterday was politically motivated, frivolous and designed to take revenge.

The People's Progressive Party (PPP) president said that it was made to make him look bad during a time when there was going to be a general election.

"It's an attempt to fabricate and manufacture something out of nothing to defame a person's image. The report to ACA is made by an accused person who is desperate and frustrated and acting like he has already been convicted," he told reporters after opening the PPP's Jelapang branch here.

Instead, the deputy minister said, he would lodge a police report against Kudus Ahmad for making a false report against him as well as file a defamation suit against Kudus' lawyer, M. Manoharan.

Kayveas was commenting on a report lodged with the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) by Kudus, the former Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) enforcement director.

According to newspaper reports, Kudus said he has a copy of pictures showing Kayveas receiving a RM50,000 contribution from the owner of a restaurant in Pandan Indah.

Kudus is being charged with 24 counts of soliciting and receiving bribes totalling RM59,000 from the same restaurant, Restoran Sri Steven's Corner, between May 2001 and May 2003.

He was charged after Kayveas exposed corruption in MPAJ.

Kayveas said he has nothing to be worried about as the claim made by Kudus was not true, adding that the said amount was pledged by one Dr Simon on Jan 1 2003 during the party's open house.

"The donation was pledged through our treasurer, Selva Mohan. Dr Simon presented a mock cheque to former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir

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who later gave it to me...but we never got that amount," he said.

He said that even the picture was supplied by a Tamil newspaper, which is not "friendly" with him.

He said he had sacrificed a lot for the party since taking over the PPP 11 years ago, including selling his property to try to bring it back to life.

Kayveas said Kudus should be concentrating on his ongoing court case in Shah Alam and not let him be used by his lawyer and DAP stalwart for the party's political gain.

"Everyone is innocent until proven guilty...that includes Kudus. He should concentrate on winning his case, ask his lawyers to defend him properly and not fall into DAP's trap," he said.

Kayveas said he also filed a suit against Manoharan for defamation as he claimed the lawyer had defamed him during cross-examination at Kudus' trial.

He said that the DAP had always wanted a transparent government but whenever the government charged well-known figures for corruption, lawyers from the party would be the first to defend them, for publicity sake.

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