

03/01/2004

Kayveas: Non-communal politics vital

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Moving away from communal politics is vital, especially in a country like Malaysia, People's Progressive Party president Datuk M. Kayveas said.

He said non-communal politics would be a sign of political maturity because people would look beyond racial barriers to run the country.

"This concept is in line with former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's proposal three years ago for Barisan Nasional to become a single party."

In the end, he said, a multi-racial political body would ensure progress and unity.

Kayveas was commenting on a statement yesterday by Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Paduka Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir urging BN component parties to move away from communal politics in an effort to create Bangsa Malaysia.

He said multi-racial parties such as PPP and Gerakan should lead the way in creating non-communal politics.

Gerakan vice-president Datuk Dr S. Vijayarajam said the younger generation would be more accepting of the concept of non-communal politics.

"It would take some time before everyone can accept the idea, but I'm confident that it can happen." He said the proposed MCA-Gerakan merger was a positive step to encourage more non-communal politics.