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Kayveas: Agencies not people-friendly

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - People's Progressive Party (PPP) president Datuk M. Kayveas said today elected representatives were unable to carry out their responsibilities efficiently due to bureaucracy in government agencies.

Kayveas said local authorities who were in charge of administrating public affairs did not adopt a people-friendly approach.

"Due to this, the elected representatives feel disappointed as they cannot carry out their responsibilities efficiently.

"The local authorities are not helping the representatives who are fighting for the people," said Kayveas in his speech at the opening of the 50th PPP general assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Present was Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Kayveas, who is also the Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, urged the Government to consider the problems faced by Malaysians, especially women who marry foreign men.

"We would like to suggest that the fate of these couples and the status of their children be given special attention in order to protect the family institution."

He said last year, 45,274 foreign women married locals and when they had children in Malaysia, they were allowed to stay in the country at the discretion of the Immigration Department.

"However, foreign men with temporary working passes who marry locals are no longer accorded any distinction when they divorce. Instead, they are treated like any normal tourist."