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Samy-Indians

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH, SAYS SAMY VELLU

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 4 (Bernama) -- MIC president Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu was visibly upset as he told the delegates at the 43rd MIC general assembly today in an emotional setting that the party has had enough of the empty promises.

After 17 years at the helm, the party president said he could not do much for the Indian community because the MIC did not receive the cooperation and support that it deserved.

"I apologise to you. I could not do very much for you just because the rightful power is not with us," he said when closing the two-day assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre.

The conference held in conjunction with MIC's 50th anniversary was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday.

Samy Vellu said the MIC had decided not to depend a lot on the government in its quest to uplift the economic status of the Indians.

"I cannot keep on telling the Indians that the government will do this and that. How long can I keep on saying this. We must now stand on our own feet," he said.

Samy Vellu said that the MIC would now have to think of a contingency plan on how to improve the lot of the Indians. "I want to create a self-reliant Indian community," he added.

The MIC president said the Indians deserved to be given their due recognition and respect.

He recalled the time when the estate workers were degraded by the British colonialists with "humiliating words".

"And now the Indians in the estates are being treated like dirt," he said, adding that they were left in the lurch as estates continued to close down for other lucrative ventures.

Samy Vellu said the MIC would hold a brainstorming session soon to discuss the problems faced by the Indians and to map out the strategies and programmes to overcome them.

On the demolition of Hindu shrines on government and private land, he gave one month to the all MIC branch leaders to list out the affected shrines in their area.

"We will then discuss the matter with the National Council of Hindu Temples on what to do with the shrines," he said.

Later at a press conference, Samy Vellu said that many people felt that he was opposed to the move by the party to have another Cabinet post.

"They think that I do not want (MIC deputy president) Datuk S.Subramaniam to become a Minister because he would undermine my position."

"This is not true because I have repeatedly asked for another Minister's post but there has not been a favourable reply," he added.

--BERNAMA

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