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Samy-Plan

MIC WANTS AFFIRMATIVE ACTION FOR INDIANS

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 3 (Bernama) -- The MIC wants a firm policy of affirmative action in the form of a structured programme from the government to help create an Indian Industrial and Commercial Community.

In making the call at the 43rd MIC general assembly here today, party president Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu said the programme should help the Indians in every field of development to ensure their rightful place in the society.

He said the government should ensure that the "affirmative action" was implemented on a consistent basis.

Samy Vellu added that development plans for the Indians should ensure that it would provide adequate opportunities for the creation of an industrial and commercial community.

"The economic development of the Malaysian Indians would certainly have a positive impact on the country," he said.

The two-day assembly was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Putra World Trade Centre. The assembly is being held as the party celebrates its 50th anniversary.

More than 3,000 party officials and members attended the opening ceremony.

Samy Vellu said the government's wide range of affirmative actions during the last 25 years had transformed the bumiputera community into a strong and vibrant community, equipped to enter the 21st century with confidence.

"However, the MIC cannot boast of such successes for the Malaysian Indians," he said, adding that the Second Outline Perspective Plan acknowledged the backward state of the Indians.

Samy Vellu, who is Works Minister, said although the problems facing the Indians were acknowledged in the plan, "measures to redress them are yet to be introduced".

"The MIC is a small party with limited resources. In spite of this, we have implemented several schemes to assist the Malaysian Indians," he said.

Samy Vellu added: "But given the magnitude of the problems faced by the Malaysian Indians, our best efforts have had only a minimal impact."

Samy Vellu said the MIC had submitted a detailed list of its requests that needed to be implemented under the Seventh Malaysia Plan.

On education, the MIC called for a national policy to be formulated to allow the building of Tamil schools in new growth areas.

He said this was important as the number of Tamil schools decreased every year due to the relocation of estate workers to new growth areas.

"We are not asking for new licences. We only request that the existing licences be utilised to build new schools in these new growth centres," Samy Vellu said.

He also urged the government to allocate RM50 million to upgrade the facilities such as classrooms in Tamil schools under the Seventh plan.

He justified the party's request by saying that the Tamil schools numbering 534 made approximately 7.7 per cent of the 6,965 primary schools in the country.

The MIC president said the government should also monitor the increase in fees when local universities are corporatised as well as the intake of students.

-- BERNAMA

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