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Mahathir-Samy Vellu

SAMY VELLU DENIES EMPTY PROMISES STATEMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Works Minister Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu has denied having said that the MIC was fed up with the government's empty promises to the Indian community.

He said that Samy Vellu, the MIC president, denied making the statement at today's Cabinet meeting.

"He said that he did not make such a statement...he merely told the Indian community not to be too dependent on the government but to work hard," Dr Mahathir told reporters after a farewell call on Fijian Prime Minister Sitiveni L.Rabuka at the end of his three-day visit here.

Samy Vellu was reported to have said in his winding up at the 43rd MIC general assembly on Sunday that he had had enough of the government's empty promises to the Indian community after 17 years at the helm of the party.

The Umno Youth yesterday expressed regret over Samy Vellu's statement and called on him to resign from the government and the MIC.

Meanwhile, MIC Youth chief S.Subramaniam said the MIC can do without any advice from outsiders on how the party should resolve the problems faced by the Indian community.

He said Samy Vellu's statement that the Indians should not depend too much on the government for assistance at the MIC general assembly "is the articulated views of the delegates and the community".

The MIC Wanita meanwhile has asked Umno Youth not to interfere in the affairs of the MIC.

"We advise the Umno Youth leader (Tan Sri Rahim Thamby Chik) not to take things out of context and let MIC members themselves decide on their leadership," the movement's chief, Puan Sri Sarasa Pasamanickam, said in a statement today. -- BERNAMA

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