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Samy-schools

SAMY VELLU DISSAPPOINTED WITH ALLOCATION FOR TAMIL SCHOOLS

SEREMBAN, June 23 (Bernama) -- MIC president Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu today described the RM11 million allocated for Tamil schools by the Education Ministry under the Seventh Malaysia Plan as insufficient and simply not acceptable.

Samy Vellu, who is the Works Minister, said he was dissapointed with the amount which did not reflect the number of students in Tamil schools which constitute four per cent of the total student population in the country.

"With four per cent of the student population studying in Tamil schools, the Education Ministry should allocate at least RM52 million and not RM11 million", he told reporters after attending the consecration ceremony of the Sri Maha Mariamman temple at Jalan labu, here.

He said a total the RM1,300 million was allocated under the Seventh Malaysian Plan for the Education Ministry and it was only justified that four per cent of the allocation be given to Tamil schools.

Last Thursday, Deputy Education Minister Datuk Khalid Yunus said RM11 million had been allocated under the Seventh Malaysian Plan for the upgrading of Tamil schools in the country.

Samy Vellu said he would raise the matter with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim who is also the Finance Minister and Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

"There is a need for more funds if we are to improve the studying environment and conditions of the Tamil schools", he said.

He also said that he had asked the MIC's head of education bureau, Datuk Dr T.Marimuthu, to prepare a working paper on the problems and shortcomings faced by Tamil schools, and ways to address them.

Samy Vellu said he fully supported Najib's views that poor leadership skills among Tamil schools headmasters was a major factor hindering the progress of such schools.

"They should not say that they do not have leaderships problem because with the changing pace of the country, one has to always find ways to improve themselves. There is no such thing as having enough leadership skills", he said.-- BERNAMA

RAB JK