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Indian education trust fund to be main topic

Sim Bak Heng

JOHOR BARU, Fri. - The setting up of a Malaysian Indian education trust will be the main topic for discussion during the 51st MIC annual delegates' conference in Kuala Lumpur tomorrow.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the objective of the proposed trust was to help the Indian community finance their children's tertiary education and those sitting STPM examination.

He urged all delegates to support the trust.

Samy Vellu was speaking to reporters after his final meet-the-candidates campaign session in the run-up to the party elections at Pulau Springs Resort near here last night.

Samy Vellu, who is Works Minister, also said parents would be encouraged to contribute to the proposed trust as an investment for their children's education.

He said the proposed name of the trust would be submitted to the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry for approval, adding that the party's legal advisor was assisting in the matter.

"Another agenda is the party's application to set up a university to ensure that more Indians are given a chance for tertiary education.

"This is going to be a major plan. We hope all divisions and branch leaders will grant their fullest support to make this dream a reality," he said.

About 1,314 delegates are expected to attend tomorrow's event.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam will be among the guests at the ceremony.

Samy Vellu said the proposed university would be set up in Kedah.

He said the party aspired to establish a cluster of tertiary educational institutions, adding that there were already two institutions at present, one in Seremban and the other in Petaling Jaya. There were proposals to have one each in Segamat, Pasir Gudang and Ipoh.

"My aim during this conference is to form a team working together to achieve the objectives of the party."

He said these objectives were to have a community which would shed the image of a labour community.

"We want to ensure every member of the community feels proud, staying, working and sharing everything in the country."

Samy Vellu added the conference would address key issues revolving around the Indian community, including changing the mindset and behaviour of the community in line with current developments in the country.

On his advice for those who were still fighting for party posts, Samy Vellu said the election was a process of winning and losing.

"I have been fighting since 1963 and never gave up ... I got to know the people in my area and made myself available to them. This was how I made myself known to them and won in the 1969 election."

Samy Vellu said all campaigns should stop by midnight tonight and all delegates attending the conference should be in before 8.30am tomorrow.

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