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MIC-Resolutions

MIC DELEGATES CALL FOR PROPER RESETTLEMENT FOR ESTATE WORKERS

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 3 (Bernama) -- Delegates to the 51st MIC general assembly here today adopted 11 resolutions, among them, urging the state governments not to approve the change of ownership and conversion of estate lands without ensuring proper resettlement and fair compensation for the workers.

The resolution called on the state governments to ensure that the affected workers were resettled properly in low-cost houses, paid fair compensation and gratuity and to relocate affected Hindu temples and Tamil schools.

"The Human Resources Ministry and state governments must also ensure that plantation owners do not resort to inhuman tactics such as disconnection of water and electricity supplies," they said.

More than 1,300 delegates attended the two-day assembly which was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Putra World Trade Centre here yesterday.

The delegates also called for the speedy implementation of the decision by the Rural Development Ministry to be the lead agency for the provision of basic amenities in estates of less than 400 hectares.

On the depressed state of health facilities in the plantation sector, they urged the government to provide better health facilities similar to that provided in government hospitals and health clinics, by taking over the estate hospitals and clinics.

On social issues, while expressing deep concern over the problem, the delegates urged all MIC divisions and branches to be fully committed to implementing preventive and rehabilitation programmes.

On religion, they expressed concern over the increased usage of distorted pictures of Hindu deities on various consumer items like compact discs and video cassettes and urged the government to extend the scope of a proposed legislation to cover acts which smear the Hindu religion.

In a lengthy debate on education, the delegates said that the majority of Tamil schools might not meet the minimum requirements to be classified as smart schools as they lacked physical facilities and manpower and urged the Education Ministry to take steps to rectify the situation.

Touching on the government's move to launch a National Action Plan (Pintas) to combat social ills, the delegates welcomed the step taken by the National Unity and Social Development Ministry to publish training modules on family development in the Tamil Language.

-- BERNAMA