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MIC-Estates

MIC TO SEND MEMORANDUM TO MENTERIS BESAR

SEREMBAN, July 20 (Bernama)-- The MIC will speedily prepare a working paper listing the problems faced by estate workers whenever the estates are sold to companies for industrial development, its president Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu said today.

He said the working paper would cover the question of protection for estate workers, compensation and the eviction problem they faced, he said after opening the Negeri Sembilan MIC Convention at the Tafe College here.

Copies of the working paper would also be sent to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad and the Human Resource Ministry so that the necessary legislation could be drawn up to protect estate workers, he said.

The MIC was confident that the caring society concept would be practised when dealing with the problems faced by estate workers, he said.

Samy Vellu said Malaysian plantation owners who made millions from the sale of their estates were adopting the colonial master's style when dealing with the workers.

The estate workers were being paid 22 days wages and asked to get out within 30 days failing which they would receive lawyer's notice ordering them to leave the place where they had stayed and worked for between 35 and 40 years, he said.

Samy Vellu said he would also hold a dialogue with the National Union of Plantation Workers (NUPW) so that workers would be paid proper compensation, given a place to stay and not simply evicted.

Samy Vellu, who is Works Minister, said the Banting-Port Dickson-Melaka Highway which was at planning stage would be a catalyst for new growth centres in the area.

He said this meant, several estates in the area would be turned into industrial, housing and commercial sites and estate workers would lose their jobs, houses and other facilities.

He came to understand that the Negeri Sembilan Government had approved several pieces of land to relocate Tamil schools and Hindu temples.

Samy Vellu said the MIC was thankful to Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad for taking the initiative to resolve the problems faced by the Indian community in the state. -- BERNAMA

AS AAM