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Proposal for varsity to be set up in Kedah

MALACCA, Sun. - The MIC has proposed to the Government for the setting up of a private university in Sembeling, Kedah.

Its president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, also Works Minister, said a working paper on the construction of the RM180 million university, to be known as Maju University, had been submitted to the Education Department and its Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had also been informed of the proposed project.

He said MIC, through its educational arm, Maju Institute of Educational Development, had finalised negotiations with Bristol University in the United Kingdom, on educational co-operation and programmes to be offered at the university.

"Construction work will take off as soon as approval is obtained from the Government," he said after opening the fourth State MIC convention in Alor Gajah, today.

The Minister said for a start, the university would have four faculties - Science, Medicine, Engineering and Information Technology.

He added the Kedah Government had agreed on a 120-hectare site for the proposed university in Sembeling.

"We have also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Bristol University on twinning collaborations.

"We are now waiting for the proposal to be approved," he added.

He also said the university would take in between 500 and 600 students for its first intake and that the number would gradually be increased to about 4,000.

It would come complete with hostels, conference centre which could accommodate about 3,000 people and tele-video conferencing facilities.

Samy Vellu also said MIC would work closely with MIED and a Bumiputera partner in Kuala Lumpur to help realise the setting up of the university.

"This university, like our other educational set-ups, will be open to students of all races in the country. We will recruit Malaysians as our lecturers.

"We will also seek assistance from the Bristol University and will recruit additional manpower from India, Philippines and Bangladesh."

"Once we obtain the approval, construction work will take off. We expect the project to be completed within two years."

Samy Vellu also expressed his gratitude to the Malacca Government for approving the construction of the Manipal Medical Science College in Selandar.

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