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Samy Vellu: Amend Labour Act

KOTA BARU, Sat. - MIC will propose to the Government to amend the Labour Act to protect the interest and welfare of estate workers.

Its president, Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, said there was a need to amend the law as the existing provisions did not provide adequate compensation for the workers.

He expressed the need to safeguard the interest of the estate workers, especially those who were forced to stop work when the estates were sold.

The existing law requires that the workers be compensated with 22 days salary when their services are terminated regardless of the number of years they have been working at the estates.

"The amount is hardly enough for them to pay down payment for a house while the owner of the estate make a hefty profit," he said yesterday after opening the Kelantan MIC convention.

Samy Vellu said 60 per cent of the estate workers comprised Indians and Bumiputera who stayed in quarters provided by their employers.

He said the problems of the estate workers would be discussed at the MIC's delegates meeting on Aug 3 and a resolution seeking for the amendments to the Labour Act would be tabled.

He said the party would submit the resolution to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Earlier, in his speech, Samy Vellu expressed the need for MIC members in Kelantan to unite. He said MIC had 23 branches in Kelantan compared with only six 10 years ago.

On the picket staged by about 40 MIC members in front of the venue where the State MIC convention was held, Samy Vellu said it was over a small matter which could be resolved.

"There were complaints that branch meetings were not properly conducted and also that the members were not notified of the meetings."

He said the party would investigate the matter.

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