

01/11/1997

Samy Vellu: Indian votes vital in Sungai Bakap

NIBONG TEBAL, Fri. - Barisan Nasional votes from the Indian community are vital to ensure victory for the ruling party in the Sungai Bakap by-election, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said tonight.

He said although Indians comprised 16 per cent of the total 16,589 voters, their support could ensure continued socio-economic progress for the community as well as other communities in the constituency and in the country.

"We are not that big in number here. However, every vote counts towards greater development for everyone, including Indians," he said at a Pemimpin Bersama Rakyat gathering at the community hall here. Among the VIPs present were Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, Member of Parliament for Nibong Tebal Dr Goh Cheng Teik and several State Barisan Nasional leaders.

Also present at the gathering, held in conjunction with the Deepavali celebrations, was the Barisan Nasional candidate, Lai Chew Hock.

Lai is facing a four-cornered fight in the election, held following the death of its State Assemblyman Ooi Theng Bok on Sept 23.

The other candidates are Goh Kheng Huat from the DAP and two independent candidates, Abu Harith Ahmad and K. Ganesh. Polling will be held on Nov 8.

Samy Vellu, who is also Works Minister, said Indian voters must continue to support the Barisan Nasional to show they fully supported Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's efforts to bring the nation to greater heights.

"Now, the nation's economy is under attack from currency speculators and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the rest of the Barisan Nasional leadership need our support to help them tide over the problem.

"This is the time for us to show our commitment and undying support to Dr Mahathir and the Barisan Nasional Government.

"A vote for Lai is a vote for the leadership to continue with various socio-economic programmes for greater harmony and prosperity for the people," he said.

Earlier, Koh alleged the DAP had resorted to personal attack in its campaign although the Opposition party had claimed it would never do so before nomination day on Wednesday.

"They lied and we definitely cannot count on them for anything.

(END)