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Samy Vellu-MIC

SAMY VELLU PROPOSES A STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 2 (Bernama) -- MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu today proposed a strategic action plan as a blueprint to identify the competencies needed for the Malaysian Indian community's future.

He said this strategy could help build the right competencies to prepare the community to face the challenges of the next millennium.

The Works Minister said it would also help to prepare the community to achieve a significant share of the future economic wealth in the emerging digital economy era.

"In formulating this plan we will analyse the essential link between today and tomorrow and between short-term and long-term goals for the community," he said at the 51st MIC general assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre, here.

Samy Vellu also said that the Malaysian Indians must face the reality of the Multimedia Super Corridor and the challenges it posed by equipping themselves with the right education, attitudes, intelligence, creativity and competencies.

"This is what we call the emerging opportunities and Malaysian Indians must utilise these opportunities. We must create a future for our children. Creating the future is more challenging than playing a catch up game. Malaysian Indians have played the catch up game for the last 50 years without much success," he said.

Samy Vellu said that if the Malaysian Indians had the right attitude towards information technology, "they can bypass the traditional industrial sector and leap into the information sector in order to make up for what we have lost".

He also said that over the past century the community, being trapped in the plantations and in recent decades as urban squatters, had developed a "sub-culture" -- alienating themselves from the mainstream of the Malaysian society.

"While I am optimistic that a large section of the Malaysian Indian community will benefit from the many opportunities in modern Malaysia, a segment of our community is on the fringes of development mainly as plantation workers and squatters," he said.

Thus, he said, urgent action must be taken both at the policy and implementation levels to prevent the emergence of a "disadvantaged community" and a "delinquent community" in modern Malaysia.

While reiterating the MIC's commitment to improving the educational status of the community, he urged them not to neglect the importance of saving as a means of meeting the educational needs of their children.

Samy Vellu, at the helm of the party for 17 years, also thanked the delegates and members for electing him unopposed for another three-year term.

The general assembly, which is being held exactly on the day the party was established 51 years ago, is attended by 1350 delegates and some 1,000 observers. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad opened the assembly this morning. -- BERNAMA

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