

28 MAY 1998

Samy-Estates

A WAGE REVIEW WILL ATTRACT MORE PEOPLE TO WORK IN ESTATES

KUALA LUMPUR, May 28 (Bernama) -- The MIC feels that some sort of additional benefits should reach estate workers to attract new employees and ensure that the existing ones remained.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said today plantation owners should consider a review of estate workers' current income in view of the importance of the sector during the present economic downturn.

"This matter has already been discussed in the Cabinet and the Prime Minister himself feels that some sort of benefits must go to the workers," he said.

Samy Vellu who earlier chaired the MIC Central Working Committee (CWC) meeting at the party headquarters said he received reports that estate management staff was given bonus but this privilege was not extended to the labourers.

He said during the current economic grind the plantation sector was one of the major contributors to the country's economy hence the services of people who really do the work on estates should be appreciated.

Samy Vellu, who is also Works Minister said today's meeting, urged the government to direct estate managements to effectively implement the housing programme for estate workers approved in 1976.

He said the programme had not got off the ground in many states while in Selangor out of 50 such projects approved only 10 had been implemented.

Samy Vellu also said the MIC Delegates Conference would be held in Subang Jaya on Aug 8 and Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional Chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had been invited to open it.

On the involvement of Indian senior students in extreme ragging activities, Samy Vellu said they were risking expulsion from the universities.

They would lose the opportunity to pursue their studies, he said.

"This is very shameful behaviour on their part," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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