

09/04/1998

Call to speed up approvals of new temples

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu today said he would remind Hindus not to build temples illegally but at the same time, urged local authorities to speed up approval of applications for new temples.

He would be meeting about 200 representatives from Hindu organisations and temples from all States on April 19.

"We are preparing some guidelines for them. They must not build on other people's land and individuals should stop building small shrines," he told reporters after delivering his winding-up address on points raised by MPs during the debates on the motion of thanks on the Royal Address.

The problem of an illegal temple in Kampung Rawa in Penang had led to a clash between two groups on March 27 which had to be broken up by police using tear gas.

Samy Vellu said applications for temples on privately-owned land should be speedily approved by local authorities but this was not always the case.

On the Hindu festival Panghuni Uttiram on April 10, Samy Vellu said the police initially did not allow the celebrations to be held.

He said he had appealed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who agreed that the celebrations can go on but for Penang, it should be held at only one temple.

(END)