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Call for global info campaign `to correct misconceptions'

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The Government should initiate a global information dissemination campaign to correct misconceptions on the political and security situation in the country due to irresponsible reporting by the foreign media.

In making this call, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the party was deeply disturbed by developments which arose due to the unfair and one-sided reporting by the foreign Press.

"This nation has become the focus of attention of the world community due to the false reports carried by the foreign media," Samy, who is also Works Minister, told reporters after officiating the party's Central Working Committee meeting at the MIC headquarters here this morning.

Discussions during the three-hour closed door session centred on irresponsible reports in the foreign media, both print and electronic, and the recent police shoot-outs which left nine men and two women, including an expectant mother, dead.

On the irresponsible foreign media reports, Samy said he had discussed the issue with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during the weekly Cabinet meeting yesterday.

"The Prime Minister has urged our respective missions abroad to initiate the publicity campaign," Samy said.

This, Samy added, would enable the world community to have the correct perception on the nation's economic and political situation.

"These reports by the foreign media has put Malaysia in a bad light and its seems evident that this was their objective from the beginning."

On measures initiated by the leadership towards economic recovery, Samy said the party and the Indian community was in full support of the Prime Minister.

"We are confident these daring and innovative measures would definitely lead the nation to economic recovery in a short time and also curb inflation, price and wage increase.

"Irrespective of race or creed, we should stand united and together thwart attempts by undesirable elements out to disrupt peace and harmony in the country."

Samy said the rakyat should realise that there are those whom he described as the nation's enemies out to sow seeds of discontent among the community by spreading malicious rumours and baseless reports.

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