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Samy Vellu

IMPLEMENT RECOVERY PLAN FAST, MIC TELLS GOVT

PETALING JAYA, Aug 8 (Bernama) -- The MIC, which is holding its 52nd general assembly today, urged the government to expedite implementing National Economic Recovery Plan proposals so that Malaysia's recovery from the current economic problems can be hastened.

Party president Datuk Seri S Samy Vellu, who made the call, hoped that the proposals would also be applied in whatever situation later as well.

"The MIC is very hopeful that the sound measures will be carried out fast so that we can get out of the economic problems quickly," he said while pledging the party's support for the plan.

Samy Vellu was speaking at the party's general assembly which was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Barisan Nasional chairman, in Subang Jaya near here.

More than 1,350 delegates attended the one-day assembly.

The economic recovery plan, recently proposed by the National Economic Action Council, covers six objectives, including stabilising the ringgit and the financial market, consolidating economic fundamentals, proceeding with the socio-economic agenda and rehabilitating beleaguered sectors.

Samy Vellu, who is also Works Minister, said the plan should be applied in other situations as well because its proposals have sound objectives of effective management of a country's economy.

In his speech lasting 30 minutes, he also called on Malaysians to bolster solid support for Dr Mahathir's stewardship of the country in dealing with the current economic problems.

"Dr Mahathir is a nation builder, a statesman and international leader. His future is not dictated by the foreign media or currency speculators," Samy Vellu said.

Since the government's moves towards economic recovery were beginning to show results, it was crucial that Malaysians continued giving their mandate to the present national leaders "who are experienced in continuing with nation-building efforts".

"Let us not be easily be influenced by inciters out to see us collapse under economic problems. We must be wise in making decisions without following the herd-instinct," he said.

Samy Vellu reiterated MIC's commitment towards upgrading the educational standards of the country's Indian community so that they could face the challenges of the new millennium through establishing more colleges and providing financial assistance. The party was now working towards setting up a university in Kedah in cooperation with Britain's Bristol University and an institute of technology in Ipoh in collaboration with India's Institute of Technology.

The MIC now runs a college in Seremban.

Samy Vellu told the delegates that the party alone could not deal with social problems affecting the Indian community and would require partnership with the various sectors, including voluntary organisations.

He urged party members to nurture MIC into a party on which the people could place their trust.

-- BERNAMA

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