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`Report bids to incite racial conflicts'

SUBANG JAYA, Sat. - MIC president Datuk Seri S Samy Vellu has directed all party branch and divisional leaders to report to the police any attempt to incite racial hatred between the Muslims and Hindus.

He said attempts to provoke a conflict between the Muslims and Hindus by a small irresponsible group should be stopped at all cost.

Speaking to reporters after the opening of the MIC general assembly, Samy Vellu said he believed that recent incidents in Penang were caused by those from other states.

"I briefed the Prime Minister about the matter yesterday," he said, adding that he had asked Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to direct the authorities to investigate the matter thoroughly.

A fire-walking ceremony at a temple in Jalan Gelugor in Penang was postponed on Friday after police discovered leaflets on Wednesday which incited racial sentiments.

Samy Vellu said he was given to understand that certain extremists who were influenced by the situation in other countries were provoking Hindus and Muslims in Malaysia.

"But what has it got to do with this country? Malaysia is a Muslim country and we Hindus accept the fact that Islam is the official religion of this country," he said.

He added that although Malaysia was a Muslim country, the Government gave financial help for the construction of temples.

Samy Vellu said he had also discussed the matter with Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Koh Tsu Koon.

"I have even received poison pen letters. One asking the Muslims to berjihad against the Hindus and another which asks the Hindus to go against the Muslims."

(END)