

07 MAY 1998

Samy-Centre

STUDENT CENTRES TO BE SET UP IN "PROBLEM" SCHOOLS

KUALA LUMPUR, May 7 (Bernama) -- The Maju Institute of Educational Development, the MIC's education arm, will set up student centres near or in selected schools to prevent students from getting involved in criminal activities.

MIC president Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu said today the centres would be equipped with computers and other facilities for the students to spend their time in a productive manner after school.

"The centres will also have games rooms and libraries," he told reporters after meeting more than 500 Indian students of Sekolah Menengah Taman Selayang I & II, near here, to discuss the social woes facing the community.

Expressing regret over the high number of Indians involved in criminal activities, Samy Vellu said the MIC hoped to instill positive thinking among the students at a young age.

He said a similar centre which was set up in his parliamentary constituency in Sungai Siput had been successful.

Samy Vellu, who is Works Minister, said a centre to be set up near the Taman Selayang schools soon would become the model for other centres.

On Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement last Monday that relocation of Hindu temples needed to be carried out in an orderly manner so as not to hurt the feelings of the devotees, Samy Vellu said he hoped the state governments and local authorities would abide by the decision.

Dr Mahathir had told a news conference after chairing an Umno Supreme Council meeting that alternative sites would be provided if there was a basis for a place of worship.

Samy Vellu said he wrote to the prime minister last month on the plight of the Hindu temples.

He also urged the local authorities in Selangor to allow the construction of some 140 temples which have been registered.

-- BERNAMA

ES JK