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`Varsity project won't damage environment'

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - There have been reports of Pas objecting to locating a proposed university project in Bukit Tembeling, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said today.

The project, 16km from Sungai Petani, is to be undertaken by the MIC.

Samy Vellu said Pas had claimed that Bukit Tembeling was a historical place and its environment should not be disturbed.

"The party recently submitted the plan to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak," he said, adding that minimal hill cutting would be done.

He said the party planned to preserve the environment and to tag the university as "one in the natural forest setting".

"The party needs RM150 million to get started on the construction of the university," he added.

Samy Vellu also said Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid had given a positive response to the proposal to set up the university.

On Pas' recent announcement to open up its membership to non-Muslims, he said the Indians should not to be hoodwinked into joining Pas as associate members.

"I want the Indian community to remember that MIC's relationship with Umno and other BN component parties is time-tested and has greatly improved the economy," he added.

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