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Samy-Voters

FUND ISSUE WILL NOT SPLIT INDIAN VOTES

KUALA LUMPUR, July 17 (Bernama) -- The South Indian Labour Fund issue will not split the Indian votes in the coming general election, MIC president Datuk Seri S Samy Vellu said today.

"I know the Indian voters and I also know about those doing this mischief," he told reporters when asked to comment on the effect of the issue on the feelings of the Indian community.

Samy, who is Works Minister, said the Indian community in general knew that the government's move to repeal the fund was beneficial to it.

"I have never betrayed the Indian Community throughout my 20 years in the Cabinet and 26 years in Parliament," he said after opening a seminar for MIC information officers here.

The Dewan Rakyat on Tuesday passed the Bill to repeal the 41-year-old fund amid protests from certain groups that the Indian community might lose out.

On the refusal by some Indian-based NGOs to meet him over the issue, Samy said the Malaysian Youth Bell Club president RRM Krishnan and the organisations were being misled by the Opposition.

He accused the Opposition of instigating the Indians to serve its own ends.

"You tak hadir you punya pasal lah...if you are not present it is your business....if they (the organisations) want to join the opposition, well go ahead," he said.

However, Krishnan was reported as saying that the 16 NGOs wanted to meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and had no wish to meet Samy because they claimed he was not serious about the matter.

Earlier opening the one-day seminar, Samy said the move to repeal the Fund was being manipulated by the Opposition.

He said the main task of the information officers was to explain the MIC's policies and programmes to the people and to counter the opposition claims.

-- BERNAMA

GM AAM