

04 JUN 1999

Samy-Cronies

I WILL EXPOSE NAME OF CRONIES, SAYS SAMY

KUALA LUMPUR, June 4 (Bernama) -- The government under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad does not practise the system of cronyism in its administration but the groups which allege otherwise are the ones most often doing it.

Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said his ministry had strong and valid evidence on companies which frequently secured contracts and he was prepared to expose them at the appropriate time.

"When the time comes and it has reached such a stage, then I will issue the names of cronies who had been awarded contracts worth millions of ringgit from the Works Ministry," he told reporters after launching the album "Memang Enak" by singer Iwan at the Sungai Buloh Highway Overhead Restaurant, today.

Samy Vellu, who is also MIC president, refused to expose the names of those he claimed to have practised cronyism or whether it involved those who were previously government leaders but had now joined the opposition.

"Now people call Dr Mahathir a crony, he is not a crony, the people who call him a crony is the number one crony," he said.

When asked when he would reveal the names, Samy Vellu said: "When it is time for war, then we will shoot (expose them). Now, we just wait."

Samy Vellu described the groups and individuals who alleged that the government was practising cronyism system as "children without brain" and they were responsible for doing it.

He also criticised the proposal by the opposition parties which wanted the post of prime minister to be rotated among leaders of the main opposition parties should they win the coming general election.

DAP chairman Dr Chen Man Hin said today that the rotation of the prime minister's post was among matters which were being considered by the opposition pact.

"I believe that in this country no one can become prime minister within the next 10 years other than Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad," Samy Vellu said.

-- BERNAMA

MHI AO