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Samy-Message

INDIANS MUST GEAR UP FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM, SAYS SAMY VELLU

KUALA LUMPUR, April 13 (Bernama) -- MIC president Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu has issued a wake-up call to the Indian community to brace for the challenges in the new millennium as Hindus and Sikhs celebrate the New Year and Vesakhi respectively tomorrow.

In wishing them a Happy New Year and Happy Vesakhi, he said they should be prepared to make new decisions for themselves and their children.

"There will be many decisions for us to make," he said in his message.

Samy Vellu who is Works Minister, said parents should invest in their children's future by sending them to the best educational institutions so that they would be better prepared to face the challenges.

Their future would very much depend on how fast they act when faced with a problem, he added.

The MIC chief also called on them to continue backing the government's National Economic Recovery Plan which was aimed at reviving the country's economy.

"Although we have seen progress, it does not mean that the people should take it easy. There should be not let-up and it is up to us to ensure that the economy recovers fully within the shortest period," he said.

He also urged the Indian community to give their undivided support to the Barisan Nasional (BN) under the leadership of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"To have a better future, we need to be politically and economically stable," he said.

Meanwhile, the Malaysia Hindu Sangam, a religious organisation, said the incoming year was a year of great challenges not only to the Hindus but to all Malaysians.

Its president, A.Vaithilingam, said a large part of the past year saw numerous setbacks not only in the economic field but also in other fields including political, health and environment.

He said the nation was beginning to overcome the temporary setbacks slowly but steadily.

The Tamil Hindus will usher in the "Pramaathi" year while the Keralites, the Malayali community, will usher in the "Vishu" and the Sikhs, the "Vaishakhi".

-- BERNAMA

ES JK