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Samy Vellu-MIC

INDIAN COMMUNITY URGED TO UNITE UNDER MIC

SHAH ALAM, Aug 31 (Bernama) -- Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu today urged the Indian community to unite under the MIC to raise grievances, issues and problems affecting the community with one single voice.

He said that only MIC could represent and work for the community's progress and advancement to make them at par with other races in the country.

"It is my aspirations to see the community united under MIC so that anything concerning the community can be raised with one voice," he told reporters after receiving 20,000 application forms to join the party from former People's Progressive Party (PPP) members at Stadium Melawati here.

The forms were handed over to him by former Selangor PPP chairman, Alex Thiagarasan. Thiagarasan resigned from PPP a few months ago citing irreparable differences with the party's leadership.

Besides Selangor, the applications were also from former PPP members in Kedah, Melaka and Pulau Pinang.

Samy Vellu, who is also MIC president, said it was his sincere wish to see the Indian community remained undivided in their support to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the Barisan Nasional (BN) government.

He also appreciated the move by former PPP members to join MIC, a component party of the BN instead of joining the opposition parties.

"Their decision to join MIC only goes to show that they do not wish see a split within the Indian community, thus strengthening the community's undivided support to the Prime Minister and the BN government," Samy Vellu said.

He also said he was very confident that in time to come, except the leaders, most of the members in the Indian Progressive Front (IPF) party, the only other Indian based party in the country will join MIC.

Samy Vellu said the 20,000 applications were approved en bloc to facilitate the registration of 200 new branches in the country, increasing the number of MIC branches in the country to 4,250 with a membership of 530,500.

He said another 24,000 membership forms from former PPP members from Perak, Selangor, Melaka and Pulau Pinang were expected to be submitted within the next two to three weeks.

Samy Vellu said forms had also been issued to IPF members who had expressed desire to rejoin MIC and the party hoped to receive between 7,000 and 8,000 IPF members.

Asked why those who joined the party were given new branches, Samy Vellu said that he wanted them to hold positions and starting afresh to serve their members.

--BERNAMA

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