

29 MAY 1999

Samy-Estates

MIC TO CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR ESTATE WORKERS' RIGHTS, SAYS SAMY VELLU

SHAH ALAM, May 29 (Bernama) -- MIC president Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu today gave an assurance that the MIC will continue to fight for the rights of estate workers at the Cabinet level, instead of resorting to actions like demonstrations.

"I promise that the MIC will continue to fight for the rights of estate workers until we succeed to restore their dignity," he said when opening the Selangor MIC Convention, here.

He said that the MIC would fight for the rights of the estate workers through Barisan Nasional (BN) channels.

Samy Vellu said that since the turn of this century, the Indian community had been deprived of proper facilities to enable them to improve their social, economic and educational status.

"While other communities in Malaysia are striving for progress and upgrading their social and economic infrastructure, we are occupied with fighting for survival as daily paid labourers with no proper direction.

"While the other races are seeking opportunities for social and economic progress, we are busy fighting for monthly wages, (a struggle) carried over since the days of the colonials who never accepted estate workers as normal human beings," said Samy Vellu, who is Works Minister.

Samy Vellu also called on the Indian community to always bear in mind that their future was vested in the hands of the BN and its leadership.

"We are very happy that we are led by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the prime minister who has been the inspiration for national unity and stability," he said.

Samy Vellu said having worked under Dr Mahathir for the last 18 years, "I must confess that he always seeks consensus from his Cabinet colleagues on all issues and is prepared for any consequences of his bold action".

"Today, we see disgruntled elements who have benefited from the leadership of Dr Mahathir, trying to undermine the faith and confidence of the people on his leadership," he said.

He said these "elements" were planning to create stress, tension and anxiety among the people through their narrow thinking and refuse to understand the different perspectives and achievements of the prime minister.

"I urge Malaysian Indians not to be carried away by a handful of elements who are parasites," he said, calling on them to look for fundamental truths and identify the illusions which create fear among ordinary citizens.

On the MIC, Samy Vellu said he aspires to see the MIC becoming a creative organisation which inspires creative team work among its leaders.

He also want MIC leaders to be able to access situations systematically, seeking input from others and gain clear insight into complex situations involving the Indian community.

"I do not know how many of you are going to fit these specifications to be leaders of the next century," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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