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Samy-Estate

MIC TO GIVE REPORT ON ESTATE WORKERS TO CABINET IN FEBRUARY

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 27 (Bernama) -- The MIC's report proposing monthly salary and ways to improve the living standard of estate workers will be submitted to the Cabinet in February, its president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said today.

He said the report, entitled "Estate Workers Towards the New Millennium", outlines problems faced by estate workers and touches on salary, their economic conditions, housing, schooling and other matters.

Samy Vellu said an initial report was submitted to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Primary Industries Ministry and the Human Resources Ministry last month.

"This matter needs to be referred first to the Human Resources, Primary Industries and Finance Ministries, the Prime Minister's Department and the Economic Planning Unit before going to the Cabinet," he said told reporters after chairing the party's Central Working Committee meeting here.

Samy Vellu said the report also contained the proposed quantum of monthly salary but he declined to give the figure. The proposed sum is believed to be between RM900 and RM1,000.

He said the quantum would be discussed by the Malayan Agriculture Producers' Association (Mapa) and the National Union of Plantation Workers (NUPW) once Mapa agrees to the principles.

Samy Vellu said the party believed that introducing monthly salary would raise the living standard of estate workers whose earnings now depended very much on the weather conditions.

"Estate owners should also use the new method of tapping introduced by the Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia. A worker can tap up to 1,500 trees a day...there is more productivity and no need to tap daily," he said.

He also said the party would organise "The intellectual forum on Malaysian Indian in the next millennium" in March next year to discuss the future of the community and the role to be played by MIC in the new millennium.

He also announced the appointment of Datuk Nelson Renganathan and Senator Jaya Parthiban as the new MIC Youth and Wanita MIC chiefs respectively, and S. Vigneswaran and Kamala Ganapathy as the secretaries.

Nelson and Jaya take over from former Pasir Panjang assemblyman M. Muthiah and Sarasa Pasamanickam respectively.

The party's annual general meeting will be held on May 20 and 21 next year.

Samy Vellu said MIC's elected representatives had been directed to attend Parliament and state assembly sittings at all times.

"They have also been asked to have their own e-mail to receive complaints from their constituents. It will be then directed to the Yayasan Strategik Sosial (MIC think tank) for further action," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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