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NGO SIGNATURE DRIVE UNCALLED FOR, SAYS SAMY VELLU

KUALA LUMPUR, June 20 (Bernama) -- Works Minister Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu has dismissed a call by a non-governmental organisation (NGO) for Members of Parliament to declare their endorsement for monthly wage for estate workers as unacceptable.

"I believe this is not a principle which we can accept in a democratic country," he told reporters after officiating at the convocation of Kolej Tafe here today.

He was asked to comment on the call by the Estate Workers Support Committee that MPs put down their signature endorsing the monthly-wage proposal.

Samy Vellu said the Cabinet had been briefed on the estate workers' plight and received a working paper from Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek.

Lim's paper recommended that estate workers be provided with several facilities to improve their socio-economic status.

Samy Vellu welcomed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement that the government would build a house for the Deputy Prime Minister in Putrajaya, the new federal administrative capital.

"I do not know why previously there was no allocation for the Deputy Prime Minister's house. If the Prime Minister stays in Putrajaya, where is the Deputy Prime Minister going to stay," Samy Vellu said.

Dr Mahathir made the statement at the Umno General Assembly yesterday.

-- BERNAMA

APG ZUL