

05 MAR 2000

Samy-MAPA

MAPA'S DECISION ON MONTHLY WAGES TIMELY- SAMY VELLU

KUALA LUMPUR, March 5 (Bernama) -- MIC president Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu today described the long-awaited decision by the Malaysian Agricultural Producers Association (MAPA) to agree in principle to monthly wages for estate workers as "timely".

"MAPA's decision will give a new lease of life to some 300,000 estate workers in the country," he said in welcoming MAPA's decision which was announced by Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn yesterday.

Dr Fong was quoted as saying that what was needed now was to work out a formula which would benefit both workers and employers.

Dr Fong said he would submit a preliminary report on the matter to the Cabinet on Wednesday.

Samy Vellu, who is Works Minister said following the decision by MAPA, estate workers were expected to enjoy better earning power and infrastructure, including housing.

"The MIC appreciates the agreement and understanding of MAPA to consider monthly wages for estate workers,"

Samy Vellu said if not for the intervention by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the issue would not have been resolved so soon.

"I have always strongly believed that only under the leadership of Dr Mahathir can the estate workers see the day light in their quest for monthly wages," added Samy Vellu.

He had raised the issue several times before the Cabinet and expressed his happiness that "finally a decision has been reached."

At the last Cabinet meeting, Dr Mahathir had directed the Human Resources Ministry to come up with a solution on the monthly wages issue and better housing for estate workers within a week.

Samy Vellu said estate workers would be forever grateful to Dr Mahathir.

--BERNAMA

ES AAM