

01/03/2000

MIC wants Government to help solve estate issue

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The MIC wants the Government to intervene to solve the long-standing monthly salary issue for estate workers, party president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said today.

He said the Government's Perbadanan Nasional Berhad was the biggest estate owner and was in the position to take the initiative to pay monthly salary to estate workers.

"If they pay monthly salary, the other big estates such as Guthrie and Sime Darby will follow suit," he said.

He said the MIC would be submitting a paper to the Cabinet in two weeks. Samy Vellu, who is Works Minister, said he had submitted copies of the paper to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn and Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik.

He was speaking to reporters after launching LCD Desktop computers, a joint project between MIC's investment arm, Maika Technologies Sdn Bhd, and a Singapore-based company D.P. Computers Pte Ltd.

Samy Vellu said copies were submitted to Dr Mahathir and Abdullah so that they know the problem was attended to and not left to the private sector.

On the failed negotiations last week on monthly salaries for estate workers between National Union of Plantation Workers and Malaysian Agricultural Producers Association, Samy Vellu said he was not informed yet.

(END)