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Samy Vellu-SMIs

SAMY VELLU WANTS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO HELP INDIAN SMI OPERATORS

KUALA LUMPUR, July 22 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Maicci) should hold dialogues with Indian operators of small- and medium-scale industries (SMIs) to identify their problems and help them, MIC president Datuk S.Samy Vellu said today.

SMI operators from the Indian community were always lagging, especially in efforts to expand their businesses, he told a media conference after opening a seminar on Loan Schemes for Business and launching the Maicci loans directory, here.

He said Maicci should represent and support the SMI operators so that they could get loans from the financial institutions.

The one-day seminar was organised by Maicci in collaboration with RHB Bank Berhad, Bumiputera-Commerce Bank Berhad, EON Bank Berhad and Bank Industri.

Samy Vellu also expressed regret that the family of Sarjan S.Sagadevan who was killed in Sauk had questioned the MIC's and the Indian community's sincerity in helping them.

He was commenting on a statement by Sagadevan's cousin, S.Supramaniam, who was reported to have expressed fear that the aid promised the family would disappear with the passage of time and that they would end up with nothing.

Samy Vellu regretted that Supramaniam did not trust the efforts made by the MIC and other parties by writing to the Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad with a list of the family members' names to ask the prime minister to supervise to ensure that all the aid pledged was channelled to them.

"I will not continue with the efforts because they have acted on their own...I'm not interested (anymore). The MIC has never reneged on its promise," he said, adding that it was not right to give aid to those who did not trust in efforts to help them.

"Now we will do whatever possible and maybe a fund will be set up. Let the fund channel the aid received," he said.

Sagadevan was one of two hostages killed by Al-Ma'unah members in their hideout in Sauk after the arms heist at two army camps in Gerik, Perak, on July 2.

-- BERNAMA

FA JK