

# Indian community to raise RM150m for varsity: **Samy**

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**SHAH ALAM, Sun:** MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said today the Indian community will raise RM150 million by August next year for the Asian Institute of Medicine, Science and Technology building fund.

He said the university, being built on a 55ha site in Sungai Petani, is expected to be completed by 2003.

"The 560,000 MIC members are expected to contribute RM100 each, while 5,600 Indian professionals in the country are requested to donate RM1,000 each," he said after officiating a special convention attended by 125 party division leaders and committee members from the peninsula and five divisions from Sabah.

The one-day convention is aimed at informing MIC leaders of the university building fund and also to gather their feedback and recommendations.

In his speech earlier, Samy Vellu, who is also

works minister, said more than 10,000 Indian businessmen, comprising 8,000 restaurateurs, goldsmiths, textile merchants and metal dealers, among others, have agreed to hold discussions to raise an undisclosed amount for the fund.

He said some members are prepared to donate RM50,000 so that their children can enjoy a 10% discount on the fees when they are accepted into the medicine faculty.

"The RM150 million to be raised will not be sufficient as the proposed cost is approximately RM465 million," said Samy Vellu.

"A government allocation has been requested and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is studying the proposal. Other bumiputra and Chinese business community have pledged their support.

"MIC has paid out RM7 million to the Kedah state government for the land and about 65% of earthworks has been completed."