

Samy: Tamil Net panel to be formed

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KUALA LUMPUR: A Tamil Internet Steering Committee and a permanent secretariat will be formed, **MIC** President Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said yesterday.

He said the establishment of the committee was in response to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call on Sunday to make Malaysia a multi-lingual computer hub.

"We are encouraged by Dr Mahathir's response to begin a Multi Lingual Computer Initiative in Malaysia.

"The committee will represent the development of Tamil computing and Internet in the country," Samy Vellu told reporters after the closing of the Tamil Internet Conference and Exposition here.

He said the proposal to establish the committee was welcomed by the over 750 delegates at the conference.

Samy Vellu, who is also the organising chairman of the conference, said besides developing Tamil-based computing, the committee would also play a lead role in propagating information communications technology within the Malaysian Indian community.

"Among the initial projects identified for the committee include the creation of a national online repository for Tamil content, the continuation of the Net-for-life campaign and establishing a Web Resource Centre for Tamil Schools," he said.

He said the organising committee had also adopted a proposal to set up a Tamil Heritage Foundation, whose main task would be to digitalise ancient palm-leaf writings on medicine, science and others.

Samy Vellu also handed over a donation of **US\$10,000 (RM38,000)** for the foundation to start work on the project.

"At the moment, only about **20%** of the schools have computer laboratories and Internet facilities," he said.