

## Samy: I was just following PM's example

KUALA LUMPUR: MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu's invitation to IPF members to join his party was inspired by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's move to forge Malay unity. *STAR 14.2*

"I followed my leader who had shown interest in forging Malay unity through discussions with PAS. It was a genuine invitation. *2001*

"But when I offered my hand in friendship, IPF kicked us," he told reporters here yesterday.

The Works Minister was commenting on IPF president M. G. Pandithan's statement that the MIC invite for its members to dissolve the party

and join them was not sincere.

He said the overwhelming vote by the IPF delegates on Sunday was not necessary, adding that the party should have replied that they were not interested.

He said that the Indian community was not disunited but only certain individuals could not see eye to eye and wanted to make their presence felt in politics.

"These politicians talk a mouthful but don't serve the grassroots. I meet more than 200 people daily. That is work but others take the credit," he said.

Samy Vellu said MIC had been in existence for more

than 50 years and had more than 580,000 members who solidly backed Barisan.

"We can bring 25,000 members for a meeting but we don't want to cause hardship to the people. We put the interests of Barisan and Dr Mahathir's leadership above party interest," he said.

Samy Vellu said that he had been in politics for 42 years and knew what a person was going to say even before he opened his mouth.

"We are not standing on weak soil. We are standing on hard soil. We are ready for a tug-of-war anytime. I am not afraid of opposition hooliganism," he added.