

27 JUN 2001

Samy-Victims

CABINET OKAYS AID FOR KAMPUNG MEDAN CLASH VICTIMS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 27 (Bernama) -- The Cabinet today approved the MIC's request for RM265,000 to be paid out as "compassionate aid" to the victims and the next-of-kin of those who died in the clash between two groups of residents in Kampung Medan and its surrounding areas in Old Klang Road here early this year.

Works Minister and MIC president Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in his capacity as acting Finance Minister, approved the sum at the weekly Cabinet meeting.

"I raised the request made by the MIC to the Finance Ministry last April at the Cabinet meeting today and the prime minister gave his approval for our request," he told Bernama when contacted here.

He said the widows of the four Indian men who died in the clash would each receive RM10,000 while those injured would get between RM2,000 and RM3,000 each.

"Payment will be made as soon as possible," he said.

The minister said that for people whose properties were damaged during the clash, the amount would have to be ascertained.

Six people -- four Malaysian Indians, an Indian national and an Indonesian

-- died and more than 40 people injured in the clash last March.

Several houses and other properties such as motorcycles were damaged or burned.

Following the incident, police arrested several people, some of whom were charged in court and convicted.

Many of the victims had complained that they had not received any compensation from the government as reportedly promised.

Samy Vellu also said that the MIC was negotiating with a few developers to provide low-cost houses at a concession rate for the four widows.

"The negotiations are expected to be completed in two to three weeks," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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