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Samy-IPF

MALAYSIAN INDIANS ARE UNITED, SAYS MIC PRESIDENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 13 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Indian community is as united as before and claims of a divided community were coined by certain politicians out to make their presence felt in politics, said MIC President Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu here today.

In an apparent reference to Datuk M.G. Pandithan-led Indian Progressive Front (IPF), he said the Indian community is not disseminated and the MIC is the party that resolves problems faced by ordinary Indians.

Responding to questions on the recent IPF's rejection to join the MIC, Samy said the community knows the people who harps on claims that the Indians are disunited.

The IPF claims to represent the down-trodden Indians and strong grass-root support but that does not mean the IPF really resolves their problems, he said.

"We solve the problems of the grass root Indians. We work while others talk. It causes nothing to talk," Samy told reporters after meeting the Ampang Jaya People's Consultative Council led by its chairman Datuk Ong Tee Keat, who is also Ampang Jaya Member of Parliament.

Samy, who is also Works Minister, said the Indians in Malaysia are not fighting among each other and the question of a divided society does not arise at all.

On Sunday, the IPF General Assembly here rejected an invitation by Samy to join the MIC.

Last month, the MIC extended an olive branch to Pandithan and his members to join the party.

"After Pandithan left MIC, there was no case of division among the Indian community and I believe even in 50 years from now, the Indian community here will not be divided," he said.

On his reason for inviting IPF to join MIC, Samy said he was following the footsteps of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in inviting PAS to Malay unity talks.

"We have extended our hands...instead they kicked at us. If they don't want to shake hand with us just say so...don't kick us in the face," said Samy who was annoyed with Pandithan's remarks, likening him to a security guard who refuses to allow IPF to enter the BN coalition.

Pandithan, who was a MIC vice-president, formed the IPF a year after he was expelled from the MIC in 1988 for indiscipline.

--BERNAMA

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