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M'SIA NEARING DEVELOPED NATION STATUS, SAYS SAMY VELLU

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 15 (Bernama) -- As the country celebrates Unity Day or Malaysia Day tomorrow, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said Malaysia is nearing its target of achieving an industrialised nation status.

"By 2020, as envisioned by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, we will become a full-fledged developed nation," he said in his Malaysia Day message today.

What was once a small and weak nation ruled by foreign powers, Malaysia is now an independent and highly respected country and has become the envy of many countries, he said.

"As such, we must preserve our independence at all cost," said the Works Minister.

He called on the younger generation to value the sacrifices of past leaders who had "toiled and braved the rough seas" to secure independence for the country and brought together Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah and Sarawak under one roof.

"Under Dr Mahathir's able leadership, today, Malaysians stand united in the face of many challenges," he added.

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