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Samy-Future

MIC LEADERS MUST CHANGE MINDSET TO FACE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE

JOHOR BAHRU, May 20 (Bernama) -- MIC leaders, especially those at the branch level, must change their mindset to face the challenges of the future and guide the community to a better living, party president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said today.

"We need leaders who are hardworking, aggressive and respected by other races in the country so they can play their role effectively in providing service to the community," he said.

He said the leaders should not just confine themselves to a certain locality but should know the political situation in the country so that they could explain it to the people.

He said the party now had 540,000 members and was the sole Indian political party representative in the government.

"We want more members for the government to hear our views and take the problems of the community seriously," he told the delegates at the party's 55th Annual General Assembly here.

He said the party was now making education among Malaysian Indians its main priority as only with education could the community make an impact in the country.

It was for this reason that the MIC wanted to make the Asian Science, Medicine and Technology University in Semiling, Kedah, a success, he said.

"We need RM450 million for this university but nobody has come forward to contribute anything so I have to find the money myself...you all (branch and division leaders) don't have to collect anything."

"Let me do all the collection because the university is for me, my family, my children and grandchildren," he said, his sarcasm ribbing the delegates.

He said delegates to the assembly did not raise this but when there were elections everyone lobbied day and night to get the votes and win a post.

On transparency in the party, he said the MIC leadership could only reveal certain things in the party and but not all the details as all decisions were taken by the MIC central working committee.

He also shrugged off suggestions that a special officer be appointed as an aide to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to explain Indian issues.

"I can tell the prime minister whatever is happening when I see him every week...I don't see the need for him to appoint anyone," he said.

He also said that the MIC would be asking for the parliamentary secretary's post in the Women and Family Development Ministry.

-- BERNAMA

SR JK