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MIC to seek aid over Indian quota

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The MIC will seek Government assistance to direct the Public Service Commission to introduce a quota for Indians in every intake into the civil service to correct the current racial imbalance.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said today that this should also apply to local authorities, other Government bodies and the private sector.

He said the PSC could base the percentage of Indians in the civil service on the community's size and importance.

He said he would monitor the PSC's employment list to ascertain the number of Indians in public service.

Samy Vellu, who is also the Works Minister, said he had briefed the Cabinet yesterday on the lack of non-Bumiputera's in the civil service.

We do not have an Indian representative in the PSC which is something that should be looked into," he told the New Straits Times.

He said he would entrust the party's social arm, Yayasan Strategik Social, with the task of monitoring Indian representation in the public sector.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad stated in Johor Baru last Saturday that the Government wanted an increase in non-Bumiputera representation in the civil service to promote national unity.

Opening the MIC's 55th annual general assembly, the Prime Minister had added that the Government was "a little bit worried" about the shortage of non-Bumiputera's in the civil service.

This prompted a statement from Samy Vellu that the MIC would seek the assistance of the Cabinet to ensure that the Public Service Department immediately addressed the problem of a lack of Indians in the civil service.

He had added that the PSD should recruit more Indians besides promoting those who had been stuck on their scales for apparent reason.

Samy Vellu said Indians were not confident of obtaining jobs in the civil service as they felt their applications would be rejected.

"This has been the perception for the last 30 years. Only a very bare minimum apply today."

He said there were Indian representatives on the board of agencies like Felda years ago but the community was no longer represented in decision-making capacities in such organisations.

"The slide in the number of Indians in the civil service and Government agencies has been a gradual one over the years and we are finally feeling the full effect of this phenomenon," he said.

Samy Vellu said Indians were poorly represented in university intake with one university only offering five out of 150 medical seats to the community.

He declined to identify the university, adding that "the university authorities concerned will know who they are."

He said this had been going on for the past 15 years despite representation from the MIC.