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MIC wants PSD to act (HL)

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JOHOR BARU, Sun. - The MIC will seek the assistance of the Cabinet to ensure the Public Service Department immediately addresses the issue of the lack of Indians in the civil service.

Party president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the PSD should be clearly directed to recruit more Indians besides promoting those stuck on their scales for no apparent reason.

"What I want to insist on is that this message be clearly given to the PSD," he said today.

In this respect, the 55th MIC annual general assembly passed a resolution today urging the Government to take affirmative action to increase the number of Indians in the civil service. It also stated that promotions should be given in line with years of service.

The MIC is carrying out a study on the lack of representation by Indians in the civil service. "We do not want to politicise the issue. We will deal with it through the Cabinet."

He said that while the Outline Perspective Plan indicated that Indians will be encouraged to apply for Government jobs, it did not categorically mention that they would be assured of employment. "Indians will only apply if they feel they have a chance of getting jobs."

He said the MIC was very worried about the shortage of Indians in the civil service as this could affect the status of Indians in society.

Citing an example, he said 60 officers were promoted recently of which one was Chinese. None were Indians although there were 130 Indians in the department.

He was commenting on Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday that the Government wanted an increase in non-Bumiputera representation in the civil service to promote national unity.

The Prime Minister had added that there was a need to ensure all races were sufficiently represented at all levels in the service. He had stated that the Government was "a little bit worried" that there were not too many Chinese and Indians in the public service.

Samy Vellu, who is also Works Minister, said the PSD should take note of the Prime Minister's comments on the matter with action taken so that non-Bumiputera representation in the civil service will increase under the OPP and Eighth Malaysia Plan.

Elaborating on staffing in the civil service, he said the teaching service was almost bereft of Indian headmasters.

"There were numerous Indian headmasters once. Sadly today, there are few. We see just two or three of them nationwide. This is not a good sign."

He said Indian representation was also sorely lacking in the armed forces and the police force.