

13 APR 2001

Samy-College

MIC'S UNIVERSITY BEGINS MATRICULATION INTAKE

KUALA LUMPUR, April 13 (Bernama) -- The Asian Institute of Medicine, Science and Technology, a MIC sponsored university, in Sungai Petani, Kedah has begun intake for matriculation courses at a temporary campus, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said, today.

He said landscaping for the university, sprawled over 96 hectares, has begun and construction of buildings are expected to start end of May.

"The university would have four faculties namely medicine, engineering, science and multimedia...students have already begun their matriculation and are doing a twinning programme with Bristol University, UK," he added.

Samy Vellu was speaking to reporters after a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between the Maju Institute of Education Development (MIED), MIC's education arm, and Informatics College, here.

The MoU paves the way for the college to offer RM366,900 in scholarships to MIED which would cover the cost of tuition, library and examination fees for deserving students from the Indian community.

Samy Vellu said construction of the university was expected to be completed by Sept 2003 and would begin operations with an initial intake of 3,500 students and this number would be gradually increased to 7,500 students, few years later.

On a different note, he said MIED did not face any more problems in collecting repayment from students who had taken out loans earlier from MIED.

"We have about RM30 million in outstanding loans and repayments are much better...about RM100,000 to RM120,000 a month," he added.

He said MIED dished out between RM5.5 million and RM6 million in loans every year to needy Indian students and if the outstanding RM30 million could be collected, an additional 5,000 and 10,000 students can be educated.

Samy Vellu also commended the government's move to relax visa requirements for students and lecturers from India and China, as contained in the country's Third Outline Perspective Plan tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Dewan Rakyat last week.

"This is to make Malaysia an educational hub and there are many Chinese and Indian students and lecturers who want to come here," he added.

He said students from India, mostly from middle class families, were keen to pursue their studies in Malaysia than in Europe.

Samy Vellu added that the government should also give emphasis to providing more part time education for working adults.

"Colleges can conduct classes from 7pm to 9pm just for these working adults and they can improve their lives enrolling in such classes," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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