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Samy Vellu-University

POOR NON-BUMI STUDENTS CAN LOOK FORWARD TO TERTIARY EDUCATION

KUALA LUMPUR, May 7 (Bernama) -- The possibility of unfilled Bumiputera student quota being offered to non-Bumiputeras in institutions of higher learning will enable many intelligent students from poor families to pursue tertiary education, MIC President Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said today.

He said many bright non-Bumiputera students failed to pursue higher education in such institutions just because the quota for non-Bumiputera intake had been filled.

Speaking to reporters after launching the "Chitrai Pournami" full moon celebrations at a temple in Jinjang near here, Samy Vellu who is also Works Minister, said he had raised the matter at the cabinet meeting last week.

"The cabinet had directed the Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad to find a solution to overcome the problem of non-Bumiputera students failing to secure a seat in institutions of higher learning although they had obtained excellent examination results.

Samy Vellu was commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday that unfilled university seats reserved for Bumiputeras would be given to non Bumiputeras if their Bumiputera peers showed no interest.

He said although there were many private universities, a majority of parents still preferred to send their children to public universities as the fees were much cheaper.

Samy Vellu said the MIC last month submitted the names of 300 Indian students who had excelled in their examinations to the Education Ministry to be considered for entry into universities.

He added that each year 1,000 Indian students approached the MIC to seek assistance to gain admission into local universities.

Meanwhile, Samy Vellu said he wanted members of Parliament and elected representatives from the party to inculcate a friendly disposition with the community at large.

"Since they attained their position with the help of voters, it is only natural that they go down to the grassroots to understand their problem," he added.

-- BERNAMA
AKT AZZ DVS