

30 AUG 2001

Merdeka-Samy

REKINDLE THE MERDEKA SPIRIT, MIC PRESIDENT URGES INDIANS

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 30 (Bernama) -- MIC President Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu today urged Malaysian Indians to rekindle in them the spirit of Merdeka and value the progress made by the nation in the last 44 years of independence.

He said Malaysia, a small nation of 23 million, had been given a new look since it gained independence in 1957 through vast development and political stability which had ensured peace in this multi-racial society.

"Malaysia is a small nation in the world map, but we are known widely because of our progress and achievement," he said in his Merdeka Day message.

Samy, who is also the Works Minister, said the country practised democracy which was accepted by all the races and there were opportunities for all.

He also called on the Indian community to work harder and preserve unity.

"Each of of us must have the spirit of Merdeka in us and also make the young generation realise the struggles the country went through," he said.

Samy Vellu recalled that in the last 20 years under Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's leadership, the nation had advanced in many areas.

The setting up the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) reflected the country's desire to keep pace globally, he said.

"As Malaysians we should be grateful for what we have," he said.

Meanwhile President of the People's Progressive Party (PPP) Datuk M.Kayveas expressed the hope that this year's National Day would instil a new spirit in Malaysians to continue with the aspirations of those who struggled for Merdeka and help create a New Malaysia.

He said Malaysians irrespective of their race or religion should be sensitive to their respective roles and help develop the economy in this era of globalisation and sophisticated information technology.

"Ponder for a while on the past...what has been built and achieved did not come about overnight. In our pursuit of wealth and riches let us also cherish the harmony we are enjoying," Kayveas said.

-- BERNAMA

DC ES AAM