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Samy Vellu: Unity talks gave idea to invite IPF

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The MIC's invitation to Indian Progressive Front members to join the party was made after taking the cue from the proposed Malay unity talks between Umno and Pas.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the invitation was in no way an indication that Indians in the country were disunited.

"I took the cue from (Umno president) Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who invited Pas for the talks.

"Dr Mahathir is my leader and I wanted to follow in his steps.

"The Indians are not disunited. We are not fighting or quarelling with each other.

"It is just that certain individuals want to make their presence felt and to show that they are very important."

Samy Vellu, who is Works Minister, said this to reporters after attending a dialogue with the Ampang Jaya People's Consultative Council at his Ministry today.

He was asked to comment on a statement by IPF president Datuk M.G. Pandithan yesterday that he would be writing to Samy Vellu soon to arrange a meeting to seek advice on how the IPF and MIC could work effectively to help the Indians.

Samy Vellu had on Jan 23 offered IPF members to join the MIC. However, during IPF's general assembly on Sunday, 2,945 out of the 2,949 delegates voted to reject the proposal and decided that IPF should remain as it is.

Only one vote each was cast in favour of joining MIC and PPP, while there were two spoilt votes. Pandithan had abstained from voting.

Samy Vellu said talking about grassroots problems alone did not meant that one was working hard for the grassroots.

"I sit in my office from 8am to 5pm and work hard but some people only talk. Let them continue talking.

"I have been in politics for 42 years. I am not worried about anyone because I know that we are standing on a solid footing."

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