

# Dividing Indians will impede progress, says Samy Vellu

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said today dividing the Indians into different parties will not help the community to progress in the long run.

Describing the 1.69 million Indians here as a 'diluting community', he said they only made up of about six per cent of the country's population.

"In another 10 years, they are only expected to make up about seven per cent and in 20 years, only about three per cent of the population," he said after opening a seminar on Investing in the Stock Market at the MIC headquarters here.

Samy Vellu said Indians in India were often unable to achieve greater progress because of the various divisions among them.

"We do not want the same thing to happen here.

"The Government here is kind enough to cater for the needs of the Indians and we can achieve better progress if we are united," he said.

Samy Vellu was elaborating on the Barisan Nasional supreme council's decision yesterday not to admit the Indian Progressive Front (IPF), Malaysian Indian Muslim Congress (Kimma) and the Malaysian Punjabi Party into the coalition.

"Our (MIC) door is always open to them ... we have plenty of place to accommodate all of them," said Samy Vellu.

Asked if IPF president Datuk

M.G. Pardithan would be offered any special position if he were to join the MIC, Samy Vellu said: "We will wait and see ... let them decide to join first."

He said he would meet with Kimma and the Malaysian Punjabi Party to discuss the possibility of them joining the MIC.

Kimma president Mohamed Hanifah Mohd Yusuf meanwhile said they were prepared to 'discuss matters with MIC'.

Samy Vellu also hit out at those who had levelled criticisms against the party for initiating the Asian Institute of Medicine, Science and Technology in Semeling, Kedah.

"These people fail to understand how important the university is in view of the increasing student population in the country."

He stressed that the issue of continuous education for Indians and caring for Tamil schools in the country were totally different.

"Let the dog continue barking ... the caravan (MIC) will keep on moving," he said.

Samy Vellu said it was even the vision of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to see that the university be set up and serve the needs of the growing student population.

He added that the condition of Tamil schools in the country was not at all as bad as publicised.

"Education is a step by step process and it is obvious that some do not seem to understand this," he said.