

# No good news from PM disappoint delegates

SHAH ALAM: MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu pacified delegates at the party's general assembly when he sensed their disappointment over Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's reply on the meritocracy issue.

Most delegates had expected an announcement of more seats in public universities for the community.

Samy Vellu told the delegates that the issue, which had upset the Indian community over the past week, was not a big problem and could be resolved.

"Take the issue out of your heart and put it down. We have to see what can be done next. This is what I have done," he said.

Earlier, the delegates were seen complaining over the

issue during the morning tea break.

"We expected some good news from him. But we were left disappointed," a delegate said.

Several delegates made use of the debate on the presidential address to hit out at the meritocracy system.

When several of the speeches became rather emotional,

Samy Vellu intervened and told the delegates not to raise the issue, saying that Dr Mahathir had promised to look into the matter.

"We should not do anything which will affect our chances. I will raise the issue in the next Cabinet meeting," he said.

Samy Vellu said the assembly was not the right forum to

discuss the issue and expressed confidence that Dr Mahathir would resolve the matter.

He also lamented that only 60 to 70 of the 1,007 Indian students who failed to get places in government universities had sought help from the party.

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