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ARREST LOAN SHARKS, SAYS SAMY VELLU

SEREMBAN, Dec 1 (Bernama) -- Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said today illegal moneylenders or loan sharks should be arrested and severely punished for breaking the law.

"They must be arrested for lending money without licence and should be severely punished," he said, commenting on the death of a couple and their son after taking paraquat in what is believed to be a loan-shark related case.

Businessman M. Manimaran, 35 and his wife Leela Vellu, 27, died at the Seremban Hospital on Friday while their four-year-old son, Devan Raja on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters after opening the 35th general assembly of the Tamil Youth Bell Clubs here, Samy Vellu who is also MIC President said the loan sharks mostly operated in the Klang Valley and major towns.

He said he would also write to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on how the government could make it easier for the low income group to obtain bank loans without needing to resort to loan sharks.

"I will write to him in his capacity as Finance Minister to find ways on how the poor who are interested in business could get financing," he said.

-- BERNAMA  
APG ABG