

# MMC's action puts students in a dilemma

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** About 1,200 medical students at the Malacca Manipal Medical College are in a dilemma now that the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) has imposed new conditions before recognising the degree programme they are undertaking.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the MMC decision was puzzling as the college in Bukit Sebukur was set up by the late Datuk K. Pathmanaban with the approval of the relevant authorities.

"These conditions are a setback to the community's efforts to progress through education.

"Last week, the number of Indians who were given medical seats in Universiti Malaya had been reduced from 16 last year to one this year," he said after witnessing the handing over of Berjaya Times Square to Berjaya chairman Tan Sri Vincent Tan by the contractor Invescor-Dumez Jaya-Woh Hup JV.

Samy Vellu said MMC should have laid out the conditions before the college was given the approval by the Government or the Education Ministry.

"I don't know what is the motive for the MMC to impose these conditions at this time," he said.

Samy Vellu said the issue

was brought to the attention of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who had instructed Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad to give a reply at the Cabinet meeting tomorrow.

He said he had been deluged with complaints from parents and students who were in dilemma following the conditions imposed by MMC.

College managing director Dr Ranjan Pai, when contacted, said the matter would be sorted out in the next few days.

The MMC had decided on June 10 that it will recognise the college's medical degree for a one-year period, provided student pass the exit examination.