

20 FEB 2003

Samy-Doctor

'UNRECOGNISED' MEDICAL GRADUATES PROBLEM SOLVED

PENANG, Feb 20 (Bernama) -- Medical graduates from India and Indonesia, whose qualifications were not recognised by the government, can now breathe easy as they have been offered to do a short-term course in three local universities.

MIC president Datuk Seri Samy Vellu said today that all 180 graduates would undergo a six-month course in Universiti Malaya, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Universiti Sains Malaysia and then be able to practice.

The students, left in a lurch over their medical degrees from 'unrecognised' foreign universities, approached Samy Vellu who brought the matter up with the Cabinet and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Samy Vellu also requested for government aid and reduction in the RM5,000 course fee for the students.

The minister spoke to reporters after a dinner event held for the AIMST University Building Fund, organised by the MIC here.

Students from a Russian university, whose qualification were also not recognised by the government, can now practice medicine as well. "The matter is now considered settled," Samy Vellu said.

"The Prime Minister has asked for the Health Ministry to allow the medical graduates from Russia to practice medicine from the day their receive their degrees," Samy Vellu said.

Earlier in his speech, Samy Vellu said MIC had so far collected RM18 million for the party sponsored university in Semeling, Kedah - AIMST.

This was excluding RM30 million collected by Samy Vellu himself. However, the fund was still short of its RM50 million target.

He urged MIC branches and division throughout the country to increase their efforts to collect funds for the university.

--BERNAMA

AZE PC