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Samy-Indian

INDIAN YOUTHS APPLY TO ENTER MARA ACTIVITY CENTRE

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 2 (Bernama) -- A total of 230 Indian youths have submitted their applications to attend courses at the Mara Activity Centre (PGM) and Community Colleges (KK) next year.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said 645 places had been allocated for Indian youths at these centres.

The special allocation for Indian youths was announced by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad when he tabled the mid-term review of the 8th Malaysia Plan (8MP), on Thursday.

Samy Vellu said MIC was happy with the government's efforts to lift up the socio-economic status of the Indian community.

"Before the 8MP (mid-term review) report was made, MIC had submitted its feedback to the State Economic Planning Units. And all matters raised had been taken into consideration," he told reporters at a luncheon held by the Foundation for Social Strategy (YSS), here today.

He said the report also revealed that the Indian community's per capita income had risen 4.1 per cent to RM3,044 in 2003 from RM2,702 in 2000.

According to Samy Vellu, the report stated that equity holding by the Indian community would be increased from 1.5 per cent to three per cent by the year 2010 by opening up business opportunities and providing government subsidy.

"The government is doing many things for the Indian community but it is not something that can be achieved within two weeks but years," he said.

On another development, Samy Vellu, who is also Works Minister, said he had instructed the Public Works Department (PWD) to provide a report on road damages due to the floods in Penang and Kedah recently.

He said the PWD had also been directed to provide a report on the incident in Puchong yesterday when a concrete bridge collapsed due to strong current. The construction of the bridge was completed only two months ago.

-- BERNAMA

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