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Samy Vellu-Recognition

SAMY VELLU TAKES MMC TO TASK OVER MEDICAL DEGREE ISSUE

KUALA LUMPUR, June 30 (Bernama) -- Works Minister Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu today hit out at the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) for no longer recognising the medical degree of the Melaka-Manipal Medical College, the state's first and only private college to offer a course in medicine.

He said the decision had affected the future of hundreds of medical students of the RM50 million college, which was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in July 2001.

When the college, which now has about 800 students, began its operations in 1997 its degree was recognised by the MMC but now the council had imposed new conditions, he said after witnessing the handing over of the Berjaya Times Square by its main contractor, Invescor-Dumez Jaya-Woh Hup JV to Berjaya Times Square Sdn Bhd here.

He said he had brought up the matter to the attention of Dr Mahathir and also requested an explanation from Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad.

"Why didn't they impose these conditions earlier? Why only now?" said a visibly upset Samy Vellu.

Samy Vellu said that over the past three days he received many telephone calls from concerned parents and students of the college.

"...parents were crying, wondering what would happen to their children. I received calls from Malays, Indians and Chinese...everybody, all wanting to know why," he said.

To a question by a reporter, Samy Vellu said he did not think that discrimination was the motive.

He said some of the parents had to sell off their properties so that their children could study medicine.

In view of the development, Samy Vellu said he feared that the same fate would befall Malaysian students studying medicine in Russia, Ukraine and other countries.

"Now, another danger is coming...I think they (students) will also face the same problem when they come back," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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