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Samy-Lash

SAMY HITS OUT AT INDIANS NOT COOPERATING WITH MIC

SHAH ALAM, Nov 9 (Bernama) -- MIC President Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu today took to task Indians who are not cooperating with the party to uplift the socio-economic status of the community.

"Some people are asking what we did for the community over the last 22 years. We've done so many things during this period that it will be just too much for us to list down one-by-one," he said.

The MIC believed in working for the people, especially the Indian community, and not clamour for cheap publicity as "some parties" have resorted to, said the Works Minister when speaking at the party's National Election Machinery Convention.

About 10,000 MIC leaders from the branch, division and state levels are attending the one-day convention which was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. Present were Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob and Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohamad Khir Toyo.

Samy Vellu said he had sacrificed his time, energy and money to ensure the Indians in this country lived a better life during the last 22 years he had been the MIC President.

"I've raised numerous issues in the Cabinet and have brought results. This has helped the Indian community on the whole," he said.

Asked at a media conference later whether he was referring to anyone or any party in particular, Samy Vellu said his statement was a general one and was not directed at anyone in particular.

"I'm just telling this to those who do not cooperate with us. We in the MIC struggle to help the community everyday. This can only be done by the MIC which is the sole Indian political party in the country," he said.

In his speech, Samy Vellu paid tribute to former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Abdullah.

"He (Dr Mahathir) initiated numerous changes and transformed Malaysia into a modern and dynamic nation. This success did not come about suddenly but from his vision and economic policies.

"His contributions, especially to MIC and the Indian community, will always be remembered and honoured forever," he said.

Samy Vellu said Abdullah's success as Deputy Prime Minister for four years and nine months had convinced the people that he could helm the country successfully.

"When chairing several cabinet committee meetings, Datuk Seri Abdullah made many decisions which have a positive impact on the socio-economic development of Indians in this country," he said.

Within a week in office, Abdullah had already drawn the admiration of the people at the grassroots with his directive to set up a task force in every ministry to tighten procedures and reduce bureaucracy to fight corruption.

"In a similar way, the establishment of the Malaysian Institute for Public Ethics and the National Integrity Plan will further enhance public confidence," he said.

Samy Vellu said MIC would not only work with Abdullah but also "give you undivided support to ride the waves of Malaysia's present success and bring the country to even greater heights."

"The MIC also gives you our pledge to ensure a landslide victory for the Barisan Nasional (BN) in the upcoming general election.

"The MIC believes in delivering. The MIC believes in loyalty to your

leadership and the MIC believes in hard work. We are committed to you and your leadership in steering this country to greater prosperity," he added.

Samy Vellu said being the sole representative of Indians in the country, MIC would always be relevant.

The party now had 4,300 branches with a membership of 601,012, he said, adding that plans are ahead to increase its members to one million in the next two years.

He said the party had successfully raised issues relating to Malaysian Indians and would continue to do so no matter what its detractors had to say.

-- BERNAMA

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