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Channel woes to MIC, Indians advised

IPOH, Sun. - Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali has called on the Indian community to channel their grievances to the MIC and not to non-governmental organisations.

"The NGOs will offer to solve their grievances but in the process more problems will be created.

"The State Government will only deal with MIC leaders who are representatives of the community," he said at the 57th Perak MIC convention here yesterday.

Also present were party president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, his deputy Datuk S. Subramaniam and Perak MIC chairman Datuk G. Rajoo.

Tajol Rosli praised the Perak MIC and the Indian community for working closely with the State in implementing development programmes.

He also announced a RM60,000 allocation to fund their activities.

"I am proud of their support and contribution and the allocation will help them conduct programmes for the benefit of the people," he said.

Samy Vellu also said the party was awaiting a decision from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the sale of flats or houses to squatters displaced by the railways' double-tracking project.

"I have raised the matter in the National Economy Action Council several times and the Prime Minister is aware of the problem," he said.

Samy Vellu proposed that the units be sold to squatters, or an agreement be arrived at to sell them their houses after they had lived in them for at least three or four years.

He said this on behalf of squatters who had to make way for the project in Perak.

Some of the squatters are not in favour of renting the units as decided by the State and Federal Governments, but want to purchase them or have the authorities give them housing lots.

Houses for these squatters were built by Syarikat Perumahan Negara (SPN).

"However, we want to ensure they had been squatters in the area and the houses will only be sold to them after they have lived in the units for three to four years," he said.