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Journalists taken to task for belittling MIC leaders

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MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu yesterday took a swipe at journalists who questioned the achievements of MIC leaders without understanding their true contributions to society.

Tamil Nesan quoted him as saying they should go to the ground and ascertain the exact nature of what was happening before putting their thoughts into print.

"There are some today who write about leaders who are working hard for the people without taking the real situation into consideration," he said in a diatribe against journalists who have written about calls for him to step aside after 24 years as president.

The calls came about after former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad appealed to veteran Barisan Nasional leaders to emulate him and allow new leaders to take over.

In reference to reports in the Malaysia Nanban which has openly called on him to step down as party chief, he said a great deal had been done for the Indian community after he assumed the leadership in 1979.

Tamil Nesan quoted the Works Minister as saying the party had 4,300 branches with more than 600,000 members today as compared with only 760 branches with 90,000 members before he took over.

Speaking at a function at the Sepang MIC division to raise funds for the Asian Institute of Medicine, Science and Technology, he said the MIC had also given thousands of ringgit in loans to about 9,000 Indian students since 1979.

"Those who day-dream by thinking they can diminish the effect of our contributions to society by merely writing about it in the newspapers will see failure," he said.

Not surprisingly, the Malaysia Nanban did not cover the event.

Malaysia Nanban continued to report on the death of video dealer M. Prakash on Oct 31 after three loan sharks forced poison down his throat at his home in Masai, Johor.