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Samy Vellu: PM has asked Chua to settle medical college problem

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The Prime Minister has asked Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng to settle the plight faced by students from the Malacca Manipal Medical College following new conditions set by the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) for the recognition of its degrees.

MIC president Datuk Seri S Samy Vellu said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said this after he raised the students' plight at today's Cabinet meeting.

"I also highlighted to the Cabinet the fact that the college had met all the Education Ministry's requirements and was recognised by the National Accreditation Board," he said before chairing his ministry's post-Cabinet meeting.

He said the college managing director had told him their side of the story, which he presented to the Cabinet today.

Some 1,227 students from the college are in a dilemma after the MMC imposed new conditions for the recognition of the degree courses they are pursuing.

One says final year students from the college must pass an exit examination before they can undergo their housemanship.

On Monday Samy Vellu said the college was set up by a former MIC vice-president, the late Datuk K. Pathmanaban, with the approval of the relevant authorities.

He urged students and parents not to worry as the MIC as well as the Education and Health Ministries were supportive of the college.

On Universiti Malaya's decision to admit only one Indian student to its medical faculty for this year's intake, Samy Vellu said the Prime Minister had assured him that he would personally look into the matter.

"I also raised the issue with Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad and his deputy Datuk Abdul Aziz Shamsuddin.

"I told them the MIC did not want to compromise on the meritocracy system and wanted it to continue," he said.

He said Musa and Abdul Aziz had also assured him that they would look into the matter.

Universiti Malaya usually takes 16 Indian students for its medical faculty.

Last week Samy Vellu, after chairing his party's central working committee meeting, said about 400 Indian students were now pursuing medical studies in Russia, 120 in Indonesia and 70 in Romania.