

Samy Vellu named special envoy to India, South Asia
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KUALA LUMPUR - Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak announced Sunday the appointment of former MIC president S. Samy Vellu as Malaysia's special envoy on infrastructure to India and South Asia effective Jan 1.

He said the appointment was in recognition of Samy' Vellu's enormous contributions in helping Malaysian companies to implement development projects on the Indian sub-continent.

"We don't want to lose him and his connection with these countries and I'm sure many Malaysian companies will benefit from his role as a special envoy on infrastructure," he said when launching a biography on Samy Vellu entitled "A Life. A Legend. A Legacy" at the Malaysian International Exhibition and Convention Centre (MIECC) in Seri Kembangan near here.

Also present were Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin and newly appointed MIC president G. Palanivel.

The special envoy post carries ministerial status.

Najib also praised Samy Vellu for his contributions after serving the people and the country for 31 years, especially the establishment of Maju Institute of Education Development (MIED), TAFE College, The Asian Institute of Medicine, Science and Technology (AIMST) University, Social Strategic Foundation and Social Rehabilitation Foundation.

"I hope you will talk about the legacy of Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu...I hope these organisations will continue to grow in stature in the future," he said.

Najib in his speech also urged MIC under the new leadership to move as a team to strengthen unity of the party and put aside the personal ambitions and personal interest.

"I'm counting on MIC. I want to make sure in the next general election Barisan Nasional (BN) will win. We (BN component parties) must work as one group, unite and must show under the new MIC leadership (MIC), we can rise to the challenge," he said.

As the BN's chairman, Najib said MIC must start looking for 'winnable' candidates who were also the people's choice in ensuring MIC's reputation would remain strong at the national and state level.

Samy Vellu, 74, the longest serving president of MIC, handed over the reins to Palanivel earlier this month. - Bernama

