

Samy: Stand on your own feet

KUALA LUMPUR: Stand on your own two feet. MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu drove home this message to the Indian community in Malaysia, saying there was a need to restore their self-confidence and to cut down on any negative thinking that could erode their self-worth and dignity.

He added there was much talent and expertise in the community and these people must be encouraged to voice out the concerns of the Indians and chart out well-planned socio-economic programmes.

"Indian professionals and businessmen must take the lead in filling the gaps and carrying out grassroots programmes to meet the community's needs, especially that of the low-income families," Samy

Vellu said in his presidential speech at the 60th MIC general assembly here yesterday.

"Over-reliance on the Government creates dependency and robs us of our human potential and creativity.

"We need to balance our demands on the Government and we initiate for the community."

The party president advised MIC leaders to listen to the "voices of the grassroots", adding that they must have time to hear the cries of the poor, the displaced workers, single mothers, orphans and grieving elderly along with those in the upper echelon of society.

Samy Vellu, who is Works Minister, said the MIC needed dedicated men and women

who shared a common vision and agenda to carry the community to greater heights under the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

"We need, at the national level, political leaders who have commitment and responsibility, dedication and passion, intellectual ability and education, grassroots touch and compassion towards the poor," he said.

Samy Vellu said the MIC fully backed Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in his efforts to restore transparency and good governance.

He thanked the Prime Minister and the Government for giving due consideration to requests made by the MIC for the Indian community under the Ninth Malaysia Plan.