

Samy: No good making unfounded claims

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KUALA LUMPUR: Making unsubstantiated allegations of leaders being corrupt or tainted will not bring any good to the country, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said.

Defending himself against latest remarks by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Works Minister said he had been investigated and cleared by the Anti-

Corruption Agency (ACA).

He was commenting on Dr Mahathir's interview with *Malaysiakini* last week, in which the latter stated that he could not remove tainted leaders like Samy Vellu and International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz as he was "powerless."

Dr Mahathir had said in the interview that the Barisan Nasional would

have suffered a serious internal backlash if he had sacked Samy Vellu.

"You ask MIC what they would do if I removed Samy Vellu," he was quoted as saying.

Samy Vellu countered by saying that he did not see any reason "for anybody to get rid of me".

"If I am taken to court and proven to be a man who has done something wrong, I would voluntarily resign."

The MIC leader said Dr Mahathir knew that he (Samy Vellu) had endured three months of investigations by the ACA after several people had made reports.

"The ACA finally came out to say that I had done nothing wrong."

He said that there must be limitations to such criticism, saying that the prime minister had the right to sack any of his Cabinet members.

"There is no way anybody can say that I can't be sacked. There was a precedent when an MCA president (Datuk Neo Yee Pan) was sacked. At a stroke of a pen, the minister goes out," Samy Vellu added.

Samy Vellu pledged to continue with his work undeterred, adding that there were many programmes to be carried out for the betterment of the Indian community.