

# Samy wants Dr M and PM to make peace

The Star - 24/5/2008

## MIC chief: Nation can progress further if they work together

**SUNGAI PETANI:** The country can progress further if Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and his predecessor Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed get together, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said.

Declining to elaborate further on the conflict between the two leaders, Samy Vellu said it was sad that Dr Mahathir had decided to quit Umno.

"I still believe he (Dr Mahathir) is a very good leader.

"If he and Datuk Seri Abdullah get together, with his experience and all, it would be more useful for the country to progress further," he said before opening the Kedah state MIC convention here yesterday.

Samy Vellu reiterated MIC's support for Abdullah as Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional chief, noting that Barisan's other component parties also supported his leadership.

"We believe he (Abdullah) has a lot of work to do. The people have given us (the Barisan) the mandate during the recent general election.

"This means we must fulfil our promises to them. Therefore, we must give the authority to the Prime Minister to carry out his duties and programmes, without any interference," he said.

On calls for Abdullah to step down as Prime Minister, Samy

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DATUK SERI S. SAMY VELLU

Vellu said it should come from Umno and not anybody else.

Earlier in Kangar, Samy Vellu said more professionals and youths would be roped in to run MIC branches in a bid to regain the Indian community's trust and confidence in the party and Barisan Nasional.

He said the MIC would have to think of new strategies to woo them into the party, as previous approaches may not have been acceptable.

Speaking at the opening of the Perlis state MIC convention here yesterday, he said the party had set its sights on young graduates, as part of its recently launched rebranding exercise.

He also said the MIC would discard the "old methods" that had prevented members from voicing their ideas and dissatisfaction.