

Samy: Make place for MIC heroes in history

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KUALA LUMPUR: The country should recognise the contributions of MIC leaders for the young citizens to remember their sacrifices to the nation, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said.

"We hope the history books will have these facts and that of those who were involved in the country's independence," he said at the MIC 60th anniversary dinner here last night.

Samy Vellu, who is Works Minister, said there should be more books on MIC in various languages.

He noted that Umno celebrated its 60th anniversary only three months ago, saying that both Umno and the MIC were set up with the vision to unite the people and to obtain independence for the country.

"Now, after 60 years, Umno and MIC, with MCA and other component parties in Barisan Nasional, have successfully formed the Government and contributed to a stable, peaceful and prosperous nation," he added.

Samy Vellu, MIC's seventh president, paid tribute to the past presidents who had built the party to represent Indians in the country.

He said MIC was not just a political party, but a political institution.

Samy Vellu said MIC was proud to have set up the Asian Institute of Medicine, Science



COALITION PARTNERS: Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting greeting Abdullah while Samy Vellu looks on in Kuala Lumpur last night.

and Technology in Kedah with the help of the Government, and planned to have a new party headquarters building soon.

He said MIC would work with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Barisan to develop the country and realise Vision 2020.

Abdullah, who is also Barisan chairman, said:

"If MIC, MCA and Umno had not been in the Government together, we would not be where we are today. All this is possible because the component parties have succeeded through tolerance, cooperation and understanding to achieve

what we have today."

He added that although opposition parties had also tried to work in a coalition, but unlike Barisan they had failed.

"Even though the different segments of society - Umno for the Malays, MCA for the Chinese and MIC for the In-

dians, we have to progress and grow together. We cannot allow others to be left behind."

Abdullah, in his congratulatory speech to MIC, said he was proud that the party had reached 60 years of success and that it had brought a lot of positive change to the Indian community.