

Samy and Koh clear air

The Star - 16/11/2006

Both deny claim that they had argued in front of Abdullah

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu and Gerakan deputy president Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, who were lambasted at the Umno Youth assembly on Tuesday, said they were misunderstood.

Selangor delegate Ramli Simbok, who alleged the two leaders were disrespectful to the Prime Minister, had also

accused MCA vice-president Datuk Ong Tee Keat over an alleged quarrel with Umno Youth chief Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein.

Samy Vellu and Dr Koh said the issue first surfaced when Abdullah was visiting Batu Kawan, Penang, two months ago and the press had reportedly said they had argued in front

of the Prime Minister.

Clarifying the incident, Samy Vellu said: "We were discussing certain development projects in Penang with the Prime Minister.

"We expressed our opinions on certain matters and Abdullah was receptive.

"But someone else misunderstood what was happening and

that is his business," said the Works Minister.

Dr Koh too denied the accusation of rudeness, saying Ramli might have misunderstood what had transpired due to the misreporting by some newspapers.

"Samy Vellu and I were not arguing in front of the Prime Minister when he visited Batu

Kawan, early September.

"We were merely discussing the traffic dispersal problem. But, you know how Samy Vellu speaks. He is a bit dramatic. It was not an argument in front of the premier," said Dr Koh.

The Penang Chief Minister added that he respected Abdullah ever since he knew him in the early 80s.

