

# Dr Mahathir hopes MIC members will close ranks

**KUALA LUMPUR Mon.**— MIC leaders and members should close ranks now that the party presidential election is over, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"I hope they will close ranks as a party so that they can work together in the Barisan Nasional," the Prime Minister said when asked to comment on the MIC election result.

Dr Mahathir also congratulated Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu on his victory.

The Prime Minister was speaking to reporters after visiting the Understanding Malaysia Exhibition at the Putra World Trade Centre.

In the election, Datuk Seri Samy Vellu secured a fourth term as president when he obtained 11,808 votes or 59.2 per cent of the total votes cast while Datuk Subramaniam polled 7,305 votes or 36.6 per cent.

The other seven contenders obtained an insignificant number of votes.

They were K.P. Samy (53), K. Sambasivam (39), R. Sachinathan (26), M. Suppiah (24), S. Sathiamurthy (22), K. Sangkaralingam (4) and K. Kaverynathan (3).

Of the 19,960 votes cast, 676 were spoilt votes.

In another development today, Datuk Seri Samy

Vellu warned Datuk Subramaniam to divorce himself from vice-president Datuk K. Pathmanaban and expelled vice-president M.G. Pandithan or face the consequences.

He said disciplinary action would be taken against Datuk Subramaniam if he "fails to mend his ways".

"I will finish him if he continues to work with Datuk Pathmanaban and Mr Pandithan," he told newsmen at his home this morning.

"I will not hesitate to take disciplinary action against him (Datuk Pathmanaban) if he continues to

show his rowdiness," he said.

He also said he would be taking legal action against Datuk Subramaniam and others who have not paid up the funds collected through the Maju Institute Educational Development lottery draw.

At another Press conference, Datuk Subramaniam blamed his defeat on numerous breaches of electoral procedure.

However, he said he was satisfied with the votes that he received despite the many obstacles that had been created to inconvenience and coerce his supporters.