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MIC-Assembly  
MIC TURNS 50, PARTY SET FOR MAJOR CHANGES

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 2 (Bernama) -- The delegates to the 43rd MIC general assembly tomorrow are expected to approve the long-overdue amendment to the party constitution to have the MIC president elected by them.

It will be a landmark decision as the MIC celebrates it's 50th anniversary tomorrow.

MIC vice-president Datuk M.Mahalingam said today the time had come for the delegates to elect the party president instead of the branch committee members.

"The change is in line with the decision of the Central Working Committee (CWC) and all should welcome it," he said in an interview here.

With the amendment, the president will be elected together with the deputy president, three vice-presidents and 23 CWC members by the delegates at next year's assembly.

The delegates are also expected to approve another amendment to the constitution to open the party to life membership for a RM100 fee. This move is similar to the one adopted by other Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will open the assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre. More than 3,000 party officials and members will attend the two-day assembly.

A grand dinner will also be held tomorrow to mark the party's 50th anniversary.

Mahalingam said the MIC would also honour 30 party veterans for their services to the party.

However, the new MIC logo would not be unveiled tomorrow, he added.

Mahalingam who is the Health Ministry Parliamentary Secretary, said the MIC had come a long way since its inception half-a-century ago.

"The people who were involved in the MIC during the early stage would not have envisioned the party as it is now," he said.

He said that under the leadership of Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu, the MIC had progressed in the economic and educational fields.

Among its major achievements was Maika Holdings Berhad, the party's investment arm. In education, the MIC, through the Maju Institute of Educational Development, had established the Tafe College. A medical college is also in the pipeline.

"We also have more professionals within the ranks of the party and more young people are showing interest to become members," he said, adding that the MIC was no longer labelled as a "chair-throwing" party.

"We have matured and this is because of the president's far-sighted vision," he added. -- BERNAMA

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