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MIC-Expulsion

MIC SACKS BALIK PULAU DIVISION CHIEF

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 27 (Bernama) -- The MIC Central Working Committee (CWC) today decided to sack a division chief and a branch chairman in Pulau Pinang following their failure to reply to show cause letters sent to them.

MIC president Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu however declined to disclose the reasons for the sacking of Balik Pulau division chief S.Ratnam and Taman Sri Ara branch chairman P.Gopalakrishnan who were believed to have applied to join the People's Progressive Party (PPP).

Speaking to reporters after chairing the CWC meeting at the MIC headquarters here, he said news reports that the entire members of the Balik Pulau division have joined the PPP were not true.

Samy Vellu said that only 24 members from the division had moved to the PPP.

"If any (MIC) member wants to join the PPP, I am happy for them and have no objection.

"I must say that this type of activity will not erode the strength of the MIC. We will still be the sole representative party of the Indian community," he said.

To a question, Samy Vellu said the MIC has no intention to make a formal complaint to the Barisan Nasional (BN) over the action of a certain BN component party which has been "pinching" MIC members.

His remarks came amid reports in Tamil-language newspapers recently that the PPP has been "wooing and recruiting" expelled MIC members and those who are said to be dissatisfied with the MIC leadership.

The MIC chief also took to task certain political parties which claimed that they are the third largest party in the BN while another claimed that it has 500,000 members.

He was making an obvious reference to the PPP and the Indian Progressive Front (IPF) led by M.G.Pandithan. The IPF has applied to join the BN but was rejected and has appealed against the decision.

Samy Vellu said the MIC general assembly to be held on Aug 23 and 24 is expected to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is BN chairman.

He said the CWC also decided that the 116 MIC divisions would conduct courses for members to deal with social ills affecting the Indian community.

-- BERNAMA

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