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MIC will not stop members from contesting

JOHOR BARU, Thurs. - MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the party would not stop any member from contesting any post in the MIC elections in August.

He said the party was civilised, adding that members were capable of handling a situation, even if they contested a post.

On speculation that former Negeri Sembilan MIC chief Datuk M. Muthupalaniappan would contest a vice-president's post, Samy Vellu said: "No one can stop anyone from contesting, whether it is the post of vice-president, deputy president or even president."

He said those presently holding office were in a strong position to seek re-election as they were Deputy Ministers or Parliamentary Secretaries.

Samy Vellu was speaking to reporters after a fund-raising dinner organised by the Dewa Sri Muniswarar Temple Association to build a temple in Ulu Tiram, last night.

On Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's proposal for a "national service"-type of training to discipline youngsters, he expressed his support and hoped it would be implemented soon.

He said he believed in disciplinary training, such as the one imparted at military schools. He added that it would help instil values which were needed to curb social problems.

On social problems among Indian youths, Samy Vellu said their problems included both criminal and social cases.

He said the party had provided training, monetary aid and reformation and rehabilitation programmes for youths who wanted to turn over a new leaf.

Samy Vellu, the MIC president, said the party had also launched weekend classes in the Klang Valley to counsel and reinforce the importance of education to secondary school pupils.

"We are focusing on secondary school pupils as most social ills are known to breed there, and we must nip the problem in the bud," he said.

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