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MIC (News Analysis)

MIC TO EXPLAIN ECONOMIC WOES TO DELEGATES

By: E.Sivabalan

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 7 (Bernama) -- As the Prime Minister tours the nation to explain to the people the country's economic problems and efforts to overcome them, the MIC too has embarked on a similar mission, but more focused among the party's decision-makers.

MIC president Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu is expected to concentrate his presidential speech at the party's 52nd general assembly tomorrow on the economic problems and the measures taken by the government to overcome them.

"We will reiterate our support and loyalty to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in his efforts to overcome the economic problems," said Samy Vellu in an interview here today.

Samy Vellu, who is Works Minister, said the 1,350 delegates would come to the assembly with one mind -- "to support and contribute to the nation's economic recovery."

The one-day assembly is scheduled to be opened by Dr Mahathir at a hotel in Subang Jaya here.

Samy Vellu said the focus of the assembly would be more on the measures implemented by the government to tackle the country's economic problems, particularly the National Economic Recovery Plan (NERP).

It is a clear shift from the previous MIC meetings when the focus of the party was on the problems and needs of the Indian community.

"Now, our aim is only one, to support the government in all the measures for a speedy economic recovery," Samy Vellu said.

The MIC supreme said a resolution to this effect would be endorsed by the delegates at the assembly.

During the debate, the delegates are expected to voice their concern and anger over the "conspiracy" by outside powers to bring down the country's leadership.

"This matter was raised at the last Umno general assembly and it will certainly be raised by the MIC delegates," said one delegate.

The delegate said the assembly would send a strong signal to the "conspirators" that the nation is "solidly united behind Dr Mahathir all the way."

"We will show these outside powers, these people who are afraid to come out in the open, that we mean business," the delegate said.

The assembly is also expected to approve amendments to the party constitution.

According to MIC secretary-general Tan Sri K.S.Nijhar, the amendment would include increasing the number of appointed Central Working Committee (CWC) members from seven to nine. Apart from the appointed post, there are 23 elected CWC members.

Others include giving more clout to state MIC liaison chiefs to play a bigger role in party affairs, said Nijhar.

"We also propose to increase the life membership fee from RM100 to RM500," Nijhar said.

On the resolutions, Nijhar said it would include giving more attention to education, particularly getting more members to subscribe to Koperasi Didik Berhad, highlighting the plight of estate workers and the NERP.

He also said the party decided to cut the duration of the meeting from two days to one in a cost-saving measure.

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