

12 NOV 1999
Samy-Candidates
FOUR INCUMBENT MIC MPs TO BE DROPPED

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 12 (Bernama) -- The MIC is likely to drop four of its seven incumbent Members of Parliament and nearly 50 per cent of its 15 state assemblymen, party president Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu said today.

He said the MIC candidates for the Nov 29 general election will be announced on Wednesday (Nov 17) at 11am after securing the approval of Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"I will be meeting Dr Mahathir on Nov 16 to get his approval on the list," he said when met at his office, here.

Samy Vellu also confirmed that he would defend the Sungai Siput parliamentary constituency.

In the 1995 general election, the MIC won all the seven parliamentary and 15 state seats it contested.

The parliamentary seats were Sungai Siput and Tapah (Perak), Kapar, Subang and Hulu Selangor (Selangor), Teluk Kemang (Negeri Sembilan), and Segamat (Johor).

The 15 state seats were Ijok, Kota Raja and Sungai Tua (Selangor), Hutan Melintang, Sungkai and Pasir Panjang (Perak), Pasir Gudang and Tenggara (Johor), Sabai (Pahang), Jeram Padang and Sirusa (Negeri Sembilan), Bukit Selambau and Lunas (Kedah), Prai (Pulau Pinang), and Bukit Asahan (Melaka).

Party insiders said apart from Samy Vellu, the incumbent MPs retained would be MIC deputy president Datuk S.Subramaniam (Segamat) and vice-president Datuk G.Palanivel (Hulu Selangor).

The MPs expected to be dropped were vice-president Datuk K.Kumaran (Tapah), Dr Leela Rama (Kapar), Dr L.Krishnan (Teluk Kemang) and Datuk M.Mahalingam (Subang) who had announced earlier that he would not seek re-election.

Samy Vellu did not say if the MIC would swap any of its parliamentary or state seats with other BN component parties.

The MIC chief also declined to give any hint as to who would be the new faces.

"I have drawn out a chart but as you can see, I have yet to put in the names of the candidates in their respective slots (constituencies)," he said as he held out the computer generated chart.

While the interview was taking place, several "aspiring" candidates stood outside his office, hoping to see Samy Vellu.

The minister however could not meet them as he had to rush to attend the funeral of former MIC Youth chief S.Subramaniam, also known as City Maniam, who was found dead in his apartment, here, yesterday.

On the statement by DAP vice-chairman M.Kulasegaran yesterday that the party would be fielding a "credible person who will give Samy Vellu a run for his life" in Sungai Siput, Samy Vellu said: "No candidate of DAP is going to shock me".

Samy Vellu said he had "seen many of DAP's strong candidates and have defeated them".

The MIC president said he would only be surprised if DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang challenges him in Sungai Siput in the upcoming polls.

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