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Samy-Election

MIC ACTIVATES ELECTION MACHINERY, GE MAY BE A FEW BLOCKS AWAY

By: Arul Rajoo

KUALA LUMPUR, June 19 (Bernama) -- While the nation waits eagerly for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to announce dissolution of parliament, the MIC suddenly activated its election machinery today, forcing political journalists to begin the countdown for the General Election.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu kicked-off the final phase of the preparation for the general election at a special meeting of party's national, state, divisional and branch leaders here.

He said the MIC's election campaign would be "With the BN Towards the New Millennium."

About 200 party officials comprising Central Working Committee members, members of Parliament, legislative assemblies, divisional chairmen, youth and MIC Wanita leaders attended the meeting at the MIC headquarters here.

"This is the final day for all documents and guidelines to be tabled in readiness for the election. We have prepared talking points for the leaders during the election campaign," Samy said.

He said although parliament had yet to be dissolved, the party would not wait until the last minute.

"It could be held anytime...it's up to the Prime Minister but it's better for us to be prepared," he said.

He said the MIC leaders who attended the session were briefed on how to go through the list of voters and draw them to the polling stations.

Samy said of the more than 800,000 eligible Indian voters, 465,000 were MIC members.

He said MIC divisional and branch chairmen should stop asking for allocations and instead run the party on their own initiatives.

Asked whether the MIC which now holds seven parliament and 15 state seats, would ask for more seats, Samy said it would be premature to do so.

Samy said the MIC had been fighting for the wellbeing of Indians in the country for the past 53 years and would continue to do so despite statements by some opposition parties that they wanted to champion their cause.

"The MIC continues to play an effective role as the sole representative of the Indian community in the government. Not a single opposition party has shown itself capable of serving the needs and aspirations of the Indian community in this country," he said.

On whether there was an exodus from the MIC to the opposition, Samy said so far only two members had said they were joining the newly-launched Keadilan.

"Maybe many other Indians who are not members of any political party are joining them. But it does not mean that Keadilan is getting the support of the entire community," he said.

He also said the MIC annual general assembly would be held on July 31 as scheduled despite the preparations for the general election.

"We will go ahead even if there's an election. In fact, it can be the platform to discuss matters pertaining to the election," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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