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Samy-Candidates

MIC HAS DECIDED ON CANDIDATES FOR GENERAL ELECTION

KUALA LUMPUR, June 28 (Bernama) -- While most component parties of the Barisan Nasional (BN) have yet to decide on their candidates for the coming general election which may be held any time, the MIC, however, has already selected its candidates.

In fact, party president Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu said the selection had been decided six months ago.

Speaking to reporters here today, he said up to 60 per cent of the MIC candidates would be new faces while the number of women candidates would also be increased.

He said the names of candidates selected for the State Legislative Assemblies and Parliament, however, could not be revealed until Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced the dissolution of parlimen.

"I don't want to cheat anybody, I've decided (the candidates) six months ago who can stand and who cannot. Some of them (the incumbents) will be replaced, 50 to 60 per cent can be changed," he told reporters after presenting a cheque worth RM50,000 contributed by the MIC to Margaret C. Francis, the mother of Audrey Melissa, the Sekolah Menengah (Perempuan) Methodist student who was raped and murdered on May 18.

Samy Vellu said the MIC's move to put up new faces in the coming general election aimed to give an opportunity to younger candidates who had the necessary education and experience as a preparation towards providing leaders for the 21st century.

"As in the State Legislative Assembly in several states, we are providing an opportunity to new faces (candidates) and women this time," he said.

He said the MIC election machinery was fully prepared for the general election and would be immediately mobilised as soon as parliament is dissolved.

-- BERNAMA

RZS AHH AO