

25 NOV 1999

MIC-Campaign (News Focus)

MIC STEPS UP CAMPAIGN AMID MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN KEY ISSUES

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 25 (Bernama) -- As polling day draws near, the MIC is stepping up its campaign to woo the voters, especially the Indians with major breakthrough on key issues affecting the community.

Political analysts said it was aimed at turning the tables on the opposition and the party's critics ahead of the Nov 29 polls.

Yesterday, Works Minister and MIC president Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu and Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek attended the ground-breaking ceremony of the proposed Datuk N.T.S.Arumugam Pillai Technical Training Institute in Nibong Tebal, Pulau Pinang.

The institute will be built on a piece of land belonging to the South Indian Labour Fund which became the centre of a controversy following the government's decision to dissolve the fund despite opposition by some Indian-based non-governmental organisations and the DAP.

However, Samy Vellu who came under criticisms, had maintained that the government would use the land to build a skills training institute for displaced estate workers and their children.

Today, Malaysian Hindu Sangam (MHS) president A.Vaithilingam commended the government and the MIC in fulfilling its pledge to build the institute.

Another breakthrough for the MIC was the decision by the Education Ministry to approve the licence to the party to establish its long-awaited medical university in Kedah.

Samy Vellu is scheduled to make the announcement at a news conference in Sungai Siput later today.

Vaithilingam said the MHS also welcomed the MIC's proposal on a new deal for estate workers, including a monthly salary.

The MIC, two weeks ago, submitted a report on the plight of the estate workers and the party's recommendations to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Vaithilingam said the MHS was also committed with the MIC to jointly prepare a submission to the Cabinet on Hindu temples with proposals to solve the numerous issues on temples, including land allocation for new temples and the status of existing ones.

Samy Vellu told Bernama today that the MIC was now going back to the people with major achievements.

He said the party aims to repeat its performance in the 1995 general election by winning all its seven Parliamentary and 15 state seats in the upcoming polls.

The Parliament constituencies are Sungai Siput, Tapah, Hulu Selangor, Kapar, Subang, Teluk Kemang and Segamat while the state seats are Ijok, Kota Raja, Sungai Tua, Hutan Melintang, Sungkai, Pasir Panjang, Pasir Gudang, Tenggaraoh, Sabai, Jeram Padang, Si Rusa, Bukit Selambau, Lunas, Prai and Bukit Asahan

"We are confident because we know the people, especially the Indian community are aware what the MIC and the BN have done for them.

"Now, it is time for all of us to deliver," he said.

Samy Vellu said the party's candidates have been cooperating well with other BN component parties to ensure a victory for the BN.

As a morale booster for the MIC and BN, the MHS said it would conduct a special "pooja" (prayers) for "a successful and peaceful elections" at the Sri Subramaniam Temple in Sungai Siput at 7.30pm tomorrow.

"As patron of the MHS for more than 20 years, he (Samy Vellu) has

brought up issues pertaining to religion especially on places of worship for Hindus and other non-Muslims to the respective authorities," said Vaithilingam.

He said the coming general election was a crucial one for all Malaysians because they have to decide whether the country needs to continue with successful development, stability and harmony or the foundation being laid for a Theocratic state with the implementation of the Hudud laws as proposed by PAS.

"The MHS opts for development with stability and harmony in a multi-racial and multi-religious Malaysia that we all love," said Vaithilingam who is also the president of the Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Sikhism.

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