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Samy-MIC

MIC SETS JULY 15 TO GO FULL SWING ON POLLS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 13 (Bernama) -- MIC's election machinery at all levels will be activated on July 15 in preparation for the impending general election, its president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said today.

As part of the preparations, he would meet MIC elected representatives on July 3 followed by a meeting with divisional leaders at a date yet-to-be fixed.

Other preparatory work include setting up operation rooms, appointing a leader to take charge of 10 voters (Ketua 10) and getting ready electoral rolls.

He said MIC would also come up with facts and figures to counter allegations hurled at the party by the opposition.

"Allegations are made against us everyday. We have a lot of materials to counter the allegations. We are only waiting for the Prime Minister's signal," he told reporters opening a leadership course for secretaries of divisions and state liaison committees here.

Asked on the challenge posed by PAS and Parti Keadilan Nasional (Keadilan) in coming polls, Samy Vellu said Indian voters would not support PAS as the party was alien to them while the newly-formed Keadilan was inexperienced.

He said about 10 per cent of Indian voters who supported the DAP in the past had now returned to the MIC's fold.

He said the party had 465,000 members who are voters while another 200,000 Indian voters are not MIC members.

Samy Vellu also said the party would take measures to increase women membership to 50 per cent of its total membership.

To enable women to play an active role and contribute to the party, MIC would amend its constitution to allow wanita chiefs of divisions to attend the party's general assembly every year.

Under the proposed amendments, divisional youth leaders would also be automatic delegates to the general assembly.

The amendments would be discussed at the Central Working Committee (CWC) before tabling at the two-day General Assembly beginning July 31 to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

With the amendments, women delegates to the assembly would increase to 122 from 20 at the moment, he said.

He also said three places would be allocated for the youth and wanita leaders in the contest for the CWC seats.

Earlier in his speech, Samy Vellu said women would be given more opportunities in the general election but when asked to elaborate in a media conference later, he declined to say the number of seats to be given to women.

He said women leaders who are smart and capable would be fielded in the election.

He also called on wanita chiefs to visit estates and rural areas to identify problems and recommend remedial measures to overcome them.

They should forward their recommendations to the party for follow-up actions, he added.

-- BERNAMA

NHD TS