

16 NOV 1999

Samy-Victory

D-DAY TURNS OUT TO BE OPPOSITION-BASHING DAY

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 16 (Bernama) -- What was supposed to be a meeting to announce the list of MIC candidates for the Nov 29 polls today turned out to be an opposition-bashing gathering.

MIC president Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu took the lead by calling on party members to counter the many allegations levelled against the MIC by the opposition.

"We have to tell the people what the MIC has done for the community," he said after launching a booklet entitled "MIC Cares" at the party headquarters, here.

The booklet in Bahasa Melayu, English and Tamil, highlights the achievements of the MIC in the last 20 years.

"We are going to ensure a landslide victory for the MIC and the Barisan Nasional (BN)," Samy Vellu told a cheering crowd of about 300 MIC members, including Central Working Committee members and division leaders.

They had gathered at the party headquarters in anticipation of an announcement of the MIC candidates to be fielded in the party's seven parliamentary and 15 state constituencies.

However, Samy Vellu said the list would only be announced after they were approved by Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said he submitted the list to Dr Mahathir today.

He maintained that four of the party's incumbent MPs and seven state assemblymen would be dropped.

Samy Vellu also criticised certain people who had resorted to writing poison-pen letters on the so-called potential candidates predicted by the local newspapers.

Speaking to reporters later, Samy Vellu said he was unable to say whether there would be swapping of seats among BN component parties.

Asked when the MIC candidates would be announced, Samy Vellu said "maybe in the next two or three days."

-- BERNAMA

ES JK