

18 NOV 1999

Samy-Candidates

ROOKIES AND VETERANS IN MIC LINE-UP FOR NOV 29 POLLS

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 18 (Bernama) -- MIC president Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu today announced a mixture of new and old faces with professional background in the party's line-up for the 10th general election on Nov 29.

As expected, four incumbent Members of Parliament and six state assemblymen were dropped while another assemblyman was re-nominated to stand in a parliamentary seat.

The MIC will contest in seven parliamentary and 15 state seats in the upcoming polls.

Announcing the candidates for these seats at the MIC headquarters here, Samy Vellu named MIC secretary-general Tan Sri K.S.Nijhar, a Ph.D holder in Economics, as the party's new candidate for the Subang parliamentary seat in Selangor.

Nijhar will replace incumbent Datuk M.Mahalingam who decided to make way for others.

Perak MIC vice-chairman and former Sungkai state assemblyman S.Veerasingham will contest the Tapah parliamentary seat in Perak, taking over from incumbent and MIC vice-president Datuk K.Kumaran.

Kuala Langat MIC division chief S.A.Anbalagan, a Universiti Malaya graduate, will stand in the Teluk Kemang parliamentary seat in Negeri Sembilan, replacing incumbent Dr L.Krishnan.

Selangor MIC Wanita chief K.Komala, who holds a masters degree in Economics, will stand in the Kapar parliamentary seat in Selangor.

Taking over from incumbent Dr Leela Rama, Komala is the MIC's sole woman candidate nominated to contest in a parliamentary seat.

Apart from Samy Vellu, who will defend the Sungai Siput parliamentary seat in Perak, the party retained MIC deputy president Datuk S.Subramaniam to defend Segamat and vice-president Datuk G.Palanivel, Hulu Selangor.

The MIC will contest the Ijok, Kota Raja and Sungai Tua state seats in Selangor; Hutan Melintang, Sungkai and Pasir Panjang (Perak); Pasir Gudang and Tenggara (Johor); Sabai (Pahang); Jeram Padang and Si Rusa (Negeri Sembilan); Bukit Selambau and Lunas (Kedah); Prai (Pulau Pinang); and Bukit Asahan (Melaka).

The state assemblymen dropped were S.Rajagopal (Kota Raja), S.Gopalakrishnan (Sungai Tua), MIC Youth chief M.Muthiah (Pasir Panjang), R.Sinnathamby (Sabai), M.Sundram (Jeram Padang) and S.Sella Krishnan (Si Rusa) while S.Veerasingham (Sungkai) will stand in the Tapah parliamentary constituency.

The new faces are MIC Wanita Information chief Kamala Ganapathy (Kota Raja), Tanjung Karang MIC division chief V.Jagarasah (Sungai Tua), Perak MIC assistant secretary R.Ganesan (Sungkai), Perak MIC secretary M.Munusamy (Pasir Panjang), Pahang MIC assistant secretary M.Devendran, T.Rajagopalu (Jeram Padang) and C.Yogawel (Si Rusa).

Incumbent state assemblymen retained are Selangor MIC vice-chairman Datuk K.Sivalingam (Ijok), Perak MIC chief Datuk G.Rajoo (Hutan Melintang), Johor MIC chief Datuk K.S.Balakrishnan (Pasir Gudang), Johor MIC vice-chairman S.Krishnasamy (Tenggara), Kedah MIC chairman Datuk V.Saravanan (Bukit Selambau), Kedah MIC deputy chairman Dr Joe Fernandez (Lunas), Pulau Pinang MIC chairman Datuk Dr K.Rajapathy (Prai) and Melaka MIC chief Datuk R.Raghavan (Bukit Asahan).

Speaking to reporters later, Samy Vellu said the party was confident of wresting "100 per cent" the seven Parliament and 15 state seats in the Nov

29 general election.

"The MIC is always confident. We have a proven track record and with that record, we are going to the battlefield," he said.

Samy Vellu however admitted that this time around, his party candidates would face a tough fight from the opposition.

Asked if those dropped from the party's list would work against the MIC, he said: "No, they will not do that. It has been our tradition (not to go against the party)."

On the new faces, he said they were "experienced people in the party and have the necessary qualifications".

"I hope the people will accept the change (in the candidates)," he said.

Samy Vellu advised the MIC candidates to bear in mind that the voters were their "boss and that the boss is never wrong."

He also chided some aspiring candidates who wrote to Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad asking him (Dr Mahathir) to intervene in the selection of the MIC candidates.

"Many people also lost their seats because they let their wives or children to answer their telephone," he added.

-- BERNAMA

ES RYN