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Samy-Contest

SAMY VELLU: I'LL STAY PUT IN SUNGAI SIPUT

SUNGAI SIPUT, Nov 15 (Bernama) -- MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu confirmed today he will contest the Sungai Siput parliamentary seat for the seventh consecutive term in the general election.

He said he would not "run away" although he might face a tough fight from DAP and newly-registered Malaysian Democratic Party (MDP).

The Works Minister has been the Sungai Siput MP since 1974.

"I'm not afraid to face anyone. I will not leave Sungai Siput," he told reporters after meeting the Sungai Siput Barisan Nasional (BN) election machinery, here.

He said incumbents hopping to other constituencies were those who have failed in their duties to look after the interests of their constituents.

As such, he urged voters particularly Indians not to support opposition candidates running away from their present seats merely to stand against BN leaders in certain constituencies.

Samy Vellu is expected to face a three-cornered fight in Sungai Siput. DAP National vice-president M. Kula Segaran and MDP vice-chairman Mohamed Asri Othman have expressed interest to take on Samy Vellu this time.

Kulasegaran was the MP for Teluk Intan before the dissolution of Parliament.

In the 1995 general election, Samy Vellu defended the seat in a three-way fight, defeating DAP's Lim Ah Guan and Mohammad Hashim Salim of PAS with a 15,610-vote majority.

Samy Vellu, who will announce the MIC's candidate line-up tomorrow, also said the party would field two new faces from the wanita wing for a parliamentary and a state seat in Selangor.

He also said MIC would release a book tomorrow on the planning and progress of the Indian community.

It would also distribute more than 100,000 special stickers bearing the wording "BN Prihatin" (A Caring BN) on Wednesday, he said.

"The Indian community must continue to support BN and the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad because it is clear the Opposition cannot deliver anything to them," he added.

-- BERNAMA

HJ TS