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MIC-Election/BM

CONTEST FOR MIC POSTS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS, SAYS SAMY

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 27 (Bernama) -- Any MIC member may contest in the party polls on May 27 including for the president's and deputy president's posts.

This was announced today by party president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu who will be defending the number one post which he has been holding since 1981.

"There will be contests for all the posts -- president, deputy president, three vice presidents and 23 central committee members. All members may contest as long as they meet the eligibility," he told a press conference after chairing a central committee meeting.

He said the party had not laid down any condition for those intending to contest except that they must be a member for five years.

Asked if the party would follow the Umno Supreme Council in recommending that there be no contest for the top two posts, he said: "We will never restrict anybody from contesting."

Samy Vellu, however, said he did not know if any member would be contesting against him.

On the possibility of a split in the party if there were contests for top posts, Samy Vellu said: "We can have hundreds of contests (and) the party will remain intact."

The party chief said he did not have a line-up of his own for the top posts.

"No line-up. Each of them can contest on their own. If they win they will be joining the working team," he said.

Samy Vellu said the MIC had drawn guidelines for the party elections, one of which is that candidates cannot allow supporters to campaign for them in hotels especially on the eve of the polls.

The MIC chief also said that the MIC would soon allow its women and youth wings to elect their own leaders.

He said the party would be amending its bylaws to enable the movements to elect their leaders in the next party election.

"We will allow them to contest, to elect their own leaders and committee. There will be no appointees like now. We want to open it up and let the best people fight it out," he said.

The MIC general assembly will be held for two days from May 27 and it will be opened by Prime Minister and Brisan Nasional chairman Datuk Seri Dr mahathir Mohamad.

The youth and women wings will hold their delegates' conference on May 21.

Samy Vellu said party branches must hold their meetings by Feb 29, divisions by March 31 and state liaison committees by April 30.

Those contesting in the May 27 polls must collect their forms from the MIC national headquarters and return them by noon on May 6.

-- BERNAMA

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