

11 NOV 2000

Samy-Candidate

DR MAHATHIR AGREES ON THE CANDIDATE PROPOSED BY MIC

BUKIT MERTAJAM, Nov 11 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has agreed on the candidate proposed by the MIC to stand in the impending by-election for the Lunas state assembly seat, said MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu today.

He said the name of the candidate standing for the Barisan Nasional (BN) in the by-election was submitted during his meeting with the prime minister yesterday.

He said the official announcement on the MIC candidate would be made personally by Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain soon and preparations by BN for the by-election would continue.

"The candidate proposed by MIC is a professional from among the party membership and was born in Sungai Petani," he told reporters after paying his respect to the wife of the former Lunas State Assemblyman, Dr Joe Fernandez who was shot dead on Saturday, here.

He said the MIC had made various preparations and was ready to face the by-election in the area and would retain the seat.

He said the operations room had already been activated and the work force to be mobilised for the by-election had been identified.

He did not rule out the possibility that the by-election would be influenced by the voters' sympathy over the death of the Lunas Assemblyman.

"I wish to explain to the Indian community that we are not third class citizens as claimed by Party Keadilan, and various assistance to the Indian community had been given by the prime minister and the BN government," he said.

He urged the Indian voters not to be influenced by the ploys of the opposition to fish for votes.

"BN is not a party that only works whenever there is an election but we work everyday," he said.

Samy Vellu said he had also discussed the development and progress of the area with the prime minister and finance minister and whatever projects or programmes which had been planned by Dr Fernandez would be continued.

Meanwhile, on the case of the murder of the Lunas State Assemblyman, he said he would meet with Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai on Monday to find out the latest development on investigations into the case of the fatal shooting of the Lunas State Assemblyman.

Samy Vellu spent almost an hour talking to Dr Fernandez's widow, Dr Rosemary Lourdes and daughter Ophelia Anne at their residence, here.

-- BERNAMA

NER AO