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He is a model son, says the mother of Barisan candidate

PORT DICKSON, Mon. - "A son who looks after his parents well will be an excellent servant of the country and people."

This is the compliment Barisan Nasional candidate for the Teluk Kemang Parliamentary constituency, S. Sothinathan, 40, got from none other than his mother, K. Ramayee.

Ramayee, 57, only learnt about her son's candidacy after the New Straits Times team visited her about 6.30pm today.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had made the announcement in Kuala Lumpur this afternoon.

Sothinathan, who is the political secretary of Works Minister and MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, had been travelling daily to Kuala Lumpur from here over the last two years.

Ramayee said Sothinathan, the eldest of her four male offsprings, is a model son. From childhood, he worked hard in his studies and also took time off to help his parents in their work.

Sothinathan's father S. Sinna Goundar, 68, who had worked as a rubber tapper, lorry cleaner and driver, said the main objective of his struggle in life was to bring up his sons to be respected citizens of the country.

Sothinathan, who studied at the Port Dickson High School here, went on to graduate with first class honours in Business Administration at Universiti Malaya, following which he obtained a degree in Law studying part-time while working.

The couple's other sons are Tharumarajam, 38, a labour officer based in Segamat, Johor; Mathivanan, 35, a police officer in Cheras, Kuala Lumpur and Sivanesan, 32, a technical engineer in Muar, Johor.

Ramayee, who had also worked as a rubber tapper to help meet the needs of her sons, chipped in: "Although we did not know until today that our son would be picked as a candidate, I was always confident that he would go far."

Sothinathan's wife, P. Maheswari, 31, said her husband had never aspired to be a politician as his ambition had always been to set up his own law firm.

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